



Charlton Mackrell Primary School & Pre-School

Welcome back

Welcome back to the new school year to returning families and the new families joining us this term. We hope you have had a restful holiday and that the children are ready for all the new learning experiences that have been prepared for them. Teachers have been working hard preparing lessons and classrooms to welcome the children back. Mrs Oliver (Inclusion manager) has already posted social stories on ClassDojo to help children with the transition to their new class or year group.

Class structure

Kingfisher Class	Reception/Year 1	Mr Collicutt
Swan Class	Year 2	Mrs Marklew Mrs Rushworth
Heron Class	Year 3/4	Miss Websdale
Starling class	Year 5/6	Miss Murray Mrs Allen

The school team at Charlton Mackrell are committed to supporting your children to be able to access the curriculum in all its fulness. We know that all children need different levels of support at different times not just with their learning but also socially and emotionally. Class support is flexible to meet the changing needs of the children. If you have any concerns about your child or need to ask questions about their learning, the first point of contact would be their class teacher. There is often time at school pick up for teachers to answer straightforward queries, but if you require a longer conversation, please make an appointment through the school office.

New starters

Children joining Kingfisher class this term can be accompanied by parents to the classroom door where they will be met by the class teacher or one of the teaching assistants. As the children become more confident and independent, or by the third week, we encourage parents to leave their children at the school gate, where a member of staff will direct them to their classroom. We know it can sometimes be difficult to say goodbye at the gate, but we have found that once the children are engaged in their learning and meet their friends, they settle more quickly. Because of the staggered start for Reception children, parents are asked to wait at the gate at the agreed time and a member of staff will bring the children out to meet you there.



Reading

At Charlton Mackrell School, we continue to promote a love of reading and children will very quickly bring home a book which matches their engagement and comprehension level. We would encourage you to hear them read to you as often as possible – every day even for a short time makes a huge difference in setting a strong foundation for their future progress in all curriculum areas. In Kingfisher and Swan class books will be matched initially to their reading level in phonics and these books from Read, Write, Inc (the accredited phonics scheme the school uses) should be read daily. Younger children will also bring home another picture book to be shared with you as the reader. Listening to stories and discussing them together as a class is something that we value highly at our school and something you can support with by sharing stories that come home with your child. Even if your child is an avid and fluent reader in upper school, it is still important to share and discuss the books your child brings home. This builds secure comprehension and wider thinking and communication skills. As an incentive we use ClassDojo to reward children for reading at home each time their reading record is signed by a parent or carer.

Once the children have completed the phonics reading program, they can choose books from the library which align with their Accelerated Reader range. When they have read a book, they take a short quiz and the guidance is that they should achieve 80% or above. Sometimes we may ask the children to read a book more than once to secure their comprehension. There is a letter for you in your child's book bag explaining how you can view books read and quizzed on by your child.

At 5 years old:

A child who is never read to has a vocabulary of 4 622 words.

A child who is read to 1 -2 times a week has a vocabulary of 63 570 words.

A child who is read to 3-5 times a week has a vocabulary of 169 520 words.

A child who is read to daily has a vocabulary of 296 600 words.

A child read 5 books a day has a vocabulary of 1 483 300 words.

Science Daily 2019



Homework

There is an expectation across all classes from Year R to Year 6 that teachers will set homework that is appropriate and proportionate. All children are asked to read daily at home and to have a record of this in their reading home record books. From Year 1- Year 6, weekly spellings are taught in class and sent home at the beginning of the half-term to inform parents. These are reviewed in class on a weekly basis and taught to the children in the week. Children are given lots of opportunities to practise in school and we would ask that you support this by practising at home. Children are able to use 'The Spelling Shed' to practise online, or they may prefer to practise by using 'Look, write, cover. Check'. Either way we know that sometimes it can be difficult for children to remember correct spellings when applying these to their work. If your child is finding spelling difficult, please make the teacher aware. Each half term teachers will set an open homework task, usually linked to the history or geography topic. This provides opportunities for children to choose how they would like to present the information they have gathered. These are examples of the kinds of tasks: PowerPoint presentations, reports, diagrams, paintings, models, cooking and stories.

Year 5 and 6 will also be given more focussed weekly homework on English and maths that supports the specific teaching they have received that week.

Attendance

As you will be aware, in the mornings we open the gate at 8.40am to allow children to be in their classes by 8.45. Attendance guidance has been updated and can be found in our attendance policy. I have added the details below to clarify expectations for pupils' attendance. Pupils who arrive late can cause disruption to lessons and miss vital information and enrichment opportunities. Research shows that arriving late is one of the lead causes in children experiencing stress and feeling unsettled and embarrassed when they arrive at school.



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Frequent lateness can seriously disadvantage children and disrupt the learning of others:

If a pupil is late each day by...	...they will miss these many days of teaching...	...and these many lessons over a year
5 minutes	3	15
10 minutes	6	30
15 minutes	9	45
20 minutes	12	60
30 minutes	18	90

The table below shows the key timings that all pupils are expected to adhere to:

8.40 am	Gates open – pupils can start to arrive at school
8.45 am	Morning registration taken in class
8.50am	Arrival between 8.50 – 9.00am a late mark is awarded
9.00 am	Morning registers are closed. (After this time an unauthorised absence is recorded.)
1.00 pm	Afternoon registration taken
1.05 pm	Afternoon registers are closed
3.15 pm	End of the school day

Pupils arriving after 8.45am must go directly to registration. If they arrive after the register has been taken, they will be marked as late with the L code.

Pupils arriving after 8.50am must go to the school office to sign in using the late book and provide a reason for their lateness. This information will be recorded on their attendance record and they will be marked as late with the L code.

In line with statutory guidance, our registers will close at 9.00 am.

Pupils arriving after 9.00am must go to the school office to sign in using the late book and provide a reason for their lateness. This information will be recorded on their attendance record and **they will be marked as late with the U code**. The U



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code shows that the pupil has attended school but is classed as an **unauthorised absence** for statistical purposes.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

End of the day:

Could we politely remind parents to accompany their child from the classroom and off the school premises at the end of the day. The school carpark can be a very busy place and children should remain with their parents when leaving school premises.

PE Kits

From next week (week commencing 8th September) please can the children in Swan, Heron and Starling Classes wear their PE kit into school on their PE days indicated below, and the remainder of the week have them in school in their PE bags.

Kingfisher class will bring their PE kit into school in for the week in their PE bags and get changed into their PE kit at school for their sessions.

PE days:

Kingfisher class – get changed into PE kit at school for their PE sessions

Swan Class – Monday and Friday

Heron Class – Wednesday (they will also be swimming on a Tuesday later in the Autumn term – further information to follow)

Starling Class – Wednesday and Thursday

Upcoming dates for this term.

Tuesday 7th October – Tempest individual school photographs

Wednesday 8th October – Flu vaccinations

Thursday 23rd October – Starling Class trip – Rural Life Museum (further information to follow)

Thursday 27th & Friday 28th November – Year 6 bikeability (further information to follow)

Monday 15th December – Whole school trip to Beauty and the Beast pantomime at Westlands (further information to follow)

I would like to wish everyone a happy start to the new year. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Many thanks again for your continued support.

Ali Allen (Headteacher)