

## Year 1 – Jays Meet the Teacher details

Welcome back to a new school year. It is so lovely to have the class full of enthusiastic children. I know the first week or two can be exhausting and overwhelming for many but I hope you and your new Jays are now beginning to feeling as confident as possible about the new year! Please do continue to contact us if you have any concerns. Below, I have detailed some general information and reminders about what is coming up over the term as well as including the information I hope to talk about in today's Meet the Teacher session.

As you know, now that the children are settled, I will be with them every day, with Miss Warren working as class TA. On Friday afternoons, I will take planning time whilst the children remain with Miss Warren, Mrs Hughes and the sports coach for PE. We will be running the class in much the same way as Reception at first, with children exploring each lesson in a variety of ways, not just sitting at tables and writing! In particular, at present, lots of our time will be devoted towards establishing routines that allow everybody to feel happy about being in school and we will have a strong emphasis on PSHE activities throughout every day. In Jays, we try to encourage the children to be as independent as possible so please do try to make them think about what they need to bring to school (and back home!) each day. They will soon learn the procedures for self-registering, storing their items, etc.! We encourage children to make good choices and reward this in many ways, including headteacher awards and marbles in a jar. 20 marbles mean a class treat!

Our Topic for this term is **Brilliant Barham, Brilliant Britain**, which will combine Science, Geography and History elements as well as allowing for some great Art and Music lessons. All English work will improve use of phonics, reading, handwriting and simple grammar by linking to books with a similar theme. As you may be aware, the children will sit the Phonics Screening Check in June, which assesses their ability in reading using phonics. We carry out activities that are similar to the check many times before this date so that the children do not feel threatened or pressured by this in any way. We try to hear children read individually at least once a week but ideally as often as possible. As a rule, we are attempting to ensure books are changed every Monday and Friday, but may end up listening to readers at any time so please ensure books are always in school. We are also hoping to welcome back some of our volunteers to hear children read soon. Of course, none of this replaces the importance of children enjoying books at home. This may be reading their book with a family member, listening to a story or even telling stories to younger siblings!

In Maths, we will work through continuous provision and challenge tasks to build solid skills with numbers to 10, beginning with place value, addition and subtraction. The 'KIRFs' which will be shared will really help your child with this. Please do practise these little and often.

In RE we will explore the question, "What do Christians believe that God is like?" with a focus on the story of the Prodigal Son. Our main topic for Science is Seasonal Change with a focus on autumn, moving on to explore materials and their properties in a few weeks. DT will be all about modelling, so **please do send in anything to keep our junk modelling stock high** – cardboard boxes, bottle lids, corks, milk bottles and foil trays are used up particularly quickly!

Until November, we will **swim on Monday** afternoons. Swimming kit is a one-piece swimsuit or close-fitting trunks, a towel and goggles if you would like your child to wear them. **PE** until half term will be on **Fridays** and we will add a second session after half term. Your child will need to wear their PE kit to school on sport day – navy blue shorts, a PE T-Shirt and trainers (plimsolls are acceptable but trainers provide much better grip and tend to fit better). They can also add dark tracksuit bottoms and a school sweatshirt for warmth. Please make sure that all items of clothing are named. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery (including earrings) for any sporting activities and no nail varnish is allowed in school.

Many of you have discovered the SeeSaw class page and I have really enjoyed receiving messages and pictures over the last few weeks! I will use this quite regularly, even now that we should remain in school. I plan to set challenges for the children and give them the opportunity to share their class work with you more easily. I am also happy for this to be used to share exciting news such as a new pet or an interesting weekend visit. I hope that this will help children to remember that personal items should not be brought into class (although I have no problem with a small security toy or similar being hidden in a bag!)

In year 1, homework takes the form of reading and practising a little maths every day. I will also set a termly challenge via SeeSaw. These will also be detailed on the weekly overviews sent home each Friday as necessary.

It helps us if children know whether they are having general school dinner, jacket potato or packed lunch each day. Do continue to send in water (in a named bottle) and remember to keep lunchboxes healthy, with no nuts.

Please do let us know of any arrangements for collecting children at the end of the day and bear with us as we get to match adult faces to children! We are very conscious that we must make sure each child is safely with the expected adult and keep a list of long-standing arrangements on the back of the classroom door. You are welcome to inform us of these via email, letter or on the door in the morning. It is also often helpful if you can tell us that you are happy for a friend to take your child to the green or for play dates. If your child is absent for any reason, don't forget to let the office know before 9.30 otherwise Mrs Glen will call to check. Can I also remind you to make good use of the school website? By going to 'News and Events' you can access the most recent newsletters and calendar (click on any event for more information) and my letters (including this one!) can be found under 'Class Pages.'

Also on the website you can find all of the latest information regarding Covid safety in school. Mrs Higgins latest letter is dated 31<sup>st</sup> August. Briefly, we are still encouraging hand sanitising and using a one-way system around the school, we have HEPA air filters and carbon monoxide detectors in the classrooms as well as enhanced cleaning systems and we are ensuring that we know where children are sat at busy times such as assembly and lunch time.

Finally, please do let me know if you have any concerns or queries. I am happy to chat briefly at the end of the day, once all of the children are with an adult. Otherwise, please do make an appointment with Mrs Glen or email me at [jodie.sharpe@barham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jodie.sharpe@barham.kent.sch.uk). Please remember that staff will only reply to emails or Seesaw posts between nine and five on term time weekdays.

We are looking forward to continuing to work with your lovely children.  
Mrs Jodie Sharpe and Miss Jodie Warren