

## Year 1 – Jays Meet the Teacher details

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 tried to summarise the information I spoke about in the Meet the Teacher session.

As you know, now that the children are settled, Mrs Ward and I will be with them every day. On Tuesday afternoons, I will take planning time whilst the children remain with the Mrs Ward, Ms Thomas and Ms Brice for PE. Other staff swaps will be that Mr J will come down from Yea6 6 for a while on Mondays to teach Computing and swimming will be a chance to spend some time with Mrs Gooderham. 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 have already quickly learnt the procedures for self-registering, storing their items, sharing their feelings, etc.! We encourage children to make good choices and reward this in many ways, including individual headteacher awards, class missions for specific rewards and beads in a jar to earn a class treat!

As you may be aware, the children will sit the Phonics Screening Check in the second week of 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 as often as possible, with support from our volunteers. Using the ELS scheme, we will ensure phonic books (with a white sticker on the front) are changed every Thursday, giving them the chance to rehearse the sounds we have studied that week. This book is to be read and re-read at least four times to build familiarity and fluency. Children may also borrow a book from the class library to share at home and, of course, are encouraged to read as much as possible. **Please ensure books are brought to school every day as we do find time to read with different groups at different times and read every day home.** This may be reading their book with a family member, listening to a story or even telling stories to younger siblings! This is the only homework we really do insist upon as it becomes so detrimental to children when they do not practice.

I did mention that DT will be all about modelling this term, 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 half term, we will **swim** on **Wednesday** 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 **Tuesdays** 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. They can also add dark, plain 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 did send out new login details for all children last week. If you or your child have not had a chance, please do see if you can see any photos of their first week. 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.

It helps us if children know whether they are having general school dinner, vegetarian option, 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 Taylor 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 overviews can be found under 'Class Pages.'

Although they still seem so young, please, please make sure you know what your child is doing online. They are already old enough that they may be watching YouTube or playing games. Please, do not let them do this unsupervised and make sure that they know what to do if they are worried.

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, do make an appointment with Mrs Taylor or email me at [jodie.sharpe@barham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jodie.sharpe@barham.kent.sch.uk). Please remember that staff are only required to 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 Mrs Kim Ward