PIRBRIGHT VILLAGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
School Lane
Pirbright
Surrey GU24 0JN
Telephone: 01483 473884
e-mail: info@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk
www.pirbrightvillageprimaryschool.com

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 3!

It may feel like the summer has only just finished but the children are already settling well into their new routines in KS2. As always, we have a very busy term planned and so that you can keep track of all the wonderful things we are learning, we have provided you with our topic web. We would also like to take this opportunity to give you a few key details and reminders:

TIMES – Now that the children are in Key Stage Two, the classroom doors will **open at 8.30am** and children should be in the classroom **by 8:45am for registration**. All the children are encouraged to be as independent as possible and we want to thank you for your assistance so far by saying your goodbyes outside and allowing them to come into class by themselves. Between 8.30 and 8.45 we provide key opportunities for the children to further support their learning so it would be great if children could be in the classroom during these times. The school day finishes at 3.15pm, where the children will be dismissed to meet you or will be handed over to adults in charge of Club Class or other external clubs. Please ensure you have completed the google form if you are allowing your child to leave the classroom and school site unattended at the end of the school day. As usual, if you are going to be late or if there is any change to your usual end of day arrangements, please let the school office / class teachers know as soon as possible.

PENCIL CASES- In KS2 we promote independence and as part of this we encourage children to be responsible for their own belongings. We would very much appreciate it if this could include coming to school with a fully stocked small pencil case. This would include: pencil, **black** handwriting pen, ruler, glue stick, sharpener (with its own collection pot) and rubber. Every item needs to be clearly marked /named so we can return it to its rightful owner.

PE - Please ensure that full P.E. kits are in school every day as, although we have timetabled P.E. days, these are flexible depending on the weather or on events across the school. The kits will remain in school from Monday to Friday and returned home at the end of the week for washing. Please also note that if your child wears ear studs and cannot take them out themselves then they should not wear them on PE days as we cannot help to remove them or cover their ears with tape. Children cannot participate in sporting events or lessons at school while wearing jewellery, including ear studs. As well as the school a pair of trainers, School PE t-shirt and shorts, kits should also contain warm clothing (in Pirbright colours) suitable for outdoor lessons.

HOME LEARNING – We know you are already familiar with our Home Learning strategy. The purpose of Home Learning at Pirbright is to ensure that pupils have the necessary skills to reach their potential in school. We want to guarantee that pupils all the way through the school practise their reading, mental arithmetic, rapid recall of Maths facts and spellings – aiming for four or five times a week, every week. These are classed as 'Essential Learning'.
We also want to continue to foster a love of learning and therefore you will find further exciting and motivating activities for pupils to engage in. These are considered as 'Further Learning' and relate to activities which allow pupils to extend and further their interest in aspects that have already been covered in school. These are classified as 'optional' for parents (not for pupils), allowing parents to manage their children's time effectively. If fitting in extra activities is going to be tricky – a particularly busy week - then you can choose to leave these activities until a more convenient time, deciding how and when these tasks can be completed.
There will also be a weekly spelling list, key information to remember (including important dates), a learning synopsis and a space for you to add any comments. In Year 3, Home Learning sheets will be sent home every **Friday** and returned to school the following **Thursday**. Please do ensure Home Learning sheets are ticked and returned so that we can keep you informed about spelling test results and read any comments you have made. We love to see what the children have been doing at home so please encourage them to share at school. If you'd prefer to email photos/videos of the home learning to us using the class email addresses, please do so.
The class email addresses are: 3SC@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk and 3ND@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk

READING – Sharing a book with your child is still vitally important even as they get older and more independent. Every child has a **BoomReader** log in (details of which have already been sent home) which should be used to record every time they read either to themselves or to an adult. Boom Reader also allows your child to provide a short book review once they have completed a text. Please encourage them to complete this with you and to be honest about their opinions and ideas about the text they have read. Please remind the children that not every book they begin needs to be finished. If they find a text to be less than interesting for them, they are welcome to change their book. But we encourage them to use the book review feature on BoomReader to support their choices. Ask them to rate book out the 5 stars, and click the relevant number before helping them input their reasons. This obviously goes for books they enjoy reading too! Consider helping them make notes of authors, series or genres they enjoy and do not enjoy. This will particularly support them when they become 'Free Readers' and suddenly have independent access to a much wider range of texts to explore. Finally, although children may be becoming more confident and fluent readers at this age, it is still important to read with them, to discuss their reading and to ensure they have fully understood the vocabulary and ideas shared by the author. Please listen to your children read regularly at home and ensure that your child brings their current reading book to school every day as we will have regular opportunities throughout the week for reading.

SPELLINGS –We are actively trying to create a spelling rich environment in our classrooms where children can act upon feedback and make improvements in their own writing. Your child will be given a set of spellings each week on their home learning sheet which helps them to learn and apply an important spelling rule. Having learnt the new spelling rule, children will find their list of words on the Home Learning sheet sent home on a Friday and we will then test the children on their learned spellings the following Thursday. Your child's spelling score will then be shared with you on the next Home Learning form.
To help your child, you could support them in practising and exploring the spelling rules covered within the lists. Can they spot examples of the spelling rule in their reading book? What other words do they know that follow or indeed break these rules and patterns and can they identify why?
This year, we will be using **Spelling Shed –** an online resource **-** to support learning of the patterns and rules and to allow children to engage in an interactive way of practising these. Your child's Spelling Shed login details can be found inside their Home Learning folder. This is not an essential method for learning spelling and if you and your child have a preferred method then please do also use this strategy regularly at home. Spelling shed has proven popular with children in Key Stage 2 and we hope your child enjoys the variety of games available for practising their spellings.

SCHOOL TRIP- We are pleased to share the date of the coming trip to **Butser Ancient Farm**. This is a very popular and engaging school trip for the Year 3 children to immerse them in Stone Age life and enable them to learn through practical, first-hand experience key historical learning. All details will come to you a little closer to the time but for now, please pop the date in your diary: **Thursday 6th November.**

Weekly Newsletter & WhatsApp groups - We love the support and care parents take in ensuring information is shared with all who need it via WhatsApp groups and key reminders for the coming week such as the 'Sunday Snapshot' are very helpful. We would like to thank our class /year group reps for their work on this. Please do remember, however that all key information can be found on the weekly newsletter, which is shared via email every Friday. Please do ensure you are receiving this email and if for any reason it is not getting to you, please contact the school office as soon as possible to help them rectify this. There may be times that further information is provided and your class teachers will always do their best to provide this information when necessary. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to us; our doors are always open at the start and end of the school day for a quick catch up or you are welcome to call the school or drop us an email to our class email addresses: 3SC@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk and 3ND@pirbright.surrey.sch.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 3 team