

Headteacher:
Mrs K Robson BEd (Hons)
Linden Close
Winterbourne
BS36 1LG



Tel: 01454 867105
Fax: 01454 867106

Website: www.stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk
Email: office@stmichaelswinterbourne.co.uk

Thursday, 29 June 2023

Dear Parents,

Transition to the Juniors

As we make the transition to the juniors, I would like to provide you with some important information about the changes that your child may expect. Mr Bailey has already begun to prepare the children for Year 3, and we are excited for the great opportunities that lie ahead.

During their time in Year 3, your child will no longer be provided with a fruit snack. However, they are most welcome to bring in a **piece of fruit** from home to eat during break time. Please ensure your child has a piece of fruit that they enjoy, so that they are able to recharge their energy for the remainder of the day. Lunch time in the juniors starts at 12:15 pm until 1:15 pm, which is 15 minutes later than your child will be used to. All playtimes will be in the junior playground and there will no longer be an afternoon play for the children. There is still time to stretch their legs though between the two lessons in the afternoon.

Since Reception, your child has been entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. As your child is moving into the Juniors, if you wish for your child to have a school meal this can be done through the same ordering system but at a cost of £2.66 per meal.

In the juniors, children receive frequent verbal feedback and praise, and stickers are limited to special visits to Mrs Robson to celebrate pieces of work or achieving 30 dojos. Certificates for the hot chocolate award and timestable rockstars are handed out to recognise engagement and ensure that progress continues.

One of the biggest changes is in reading. Phonics will only be taught in catch up sessions for those who still require it. Most of your child's reading in school will be during whole class guided reading sessions, which happen on a daily basis. While reading for fluency is rehearsed in these lessons, they largely focus on understanding the text and deepening their understanding. In Year 3, we aim to expand your child's exposure to different genres using smaller texts with high level vocabulary in our junior reading scheme. This scheme continues into Year 5. Teachers assess reading levels each half term, as it is important that your child's reading books are fully accessible to them, so that they can read fluently and with expression. We encourage all children to work through the school reading scheme, but reading for pleasure is also actively promoted. Please ensure that your child engages in regular or daily 1:1 reading sessions with you and writes about their reading in their reading record. They can record reads from their scheme book, reading for pleasure book from the class library, or a text they are enjoying from home. While reading records are monitored on a weekly basis, comments or markings from the class teacher may not be present.

At this stage, children in the juniors are encouraged to develop their independence, and this is reflected in their daily activities, whether that be changing their own reading books or coming into the classroom



independently in the mornings. Your child will take responsibility for changing their books when they need to. Please encourage your child to take ownership in their daily routine and support them so that they may thrive in Year 3. However, should you notice that they are not changing their books regularly, please let their class teacher know so they can be prompted to do so.

In addition to subjects your child has previously been taught, they will also begin to learn basic language skills in French. This will help them to develop their communication skills and extend their knowledge of how language works. Learning another language gives children a new perspective on the world and encourages them to understand their own cultures and those of others.

We have no doubt that the children will settle into their new school routine in Year 3 and continue to thrive with us at St Michael's.

Yours sincerely,

