

## YEAR 2 to 3 TRANSITION - GUIDE FOR PARENTS, FROM PARENTS

It is a very exciting time for the children moving from Infants to Juniors and they get support and advice on the transition from the school. For the parents, however, it is a bit trickier so we have developed a little Transition Guide for Parents, from Parents who have experienced this transition, which may help you ease into Junior life next term and help you support your child from the beginning of Year 3.

### THE BASICS:

#### Junior Set up

The Juniors are made up of 3 classes in the Lower Juniors and 3 classes in the Upper Junior. We will be focussing only on the life of the *Lower Juniors*.

Lower Juniors are a mix of Year 3 and Year 4. Year 3 children will be in classes with Year 4 children but, as per the Infant classes, children will be allocated for Maths in groups according to their ability.

#### Lower Junior Teachers:

- Mrs Jones
- Mrs Hague
- Mrs Weller/Mrs Hurst

### Lower Junior Equipment

- **Rucksacks:** Year 3 children can bring in a rucksack to school and no longer need the book bags. The Yellow rucksacks you see round the school are available from the School office at a discount price of £4.50. You do not, however have to a St Mary's rucksack but it should be something that the children can carry on their own and that holds a water bottle, A4 books, pencil case, reading books and homework books, their jumper and anything else they need to bring home.
- **Pencil Case:** They can bring in a pencil case with pencils; colouring in pencils, felt tips, rubber, glue, sharpener etc (*Note: From experience these will get lost pretty quickly but there are supplies at school!*). Pens are not used until later in the year when the children are assessed on handwriting/literacy development.
- **Water Bottle, PE kit and all uniform:** as normal  
Do make sure your child can remove their earrings themselves, or alternatively remove them at home on PE days.
- **Snacks/Fruit:** Juniors are no longer provided with fruit at snack time. Feel free to provide your child with a piece of fruit, vegetables or another healthy snack - NO SWEETS, CHOCOLATES OR NUTS.

**PLEASE ENSURE  
EVERYTHING IS  
CLEARLY LABELLED  
WITH  
YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

- **Lunches:** Once the children reach Juniors they are no longer eligible for the free lunches provided by the Government so you will need to pay for lunches or provide a packed lunch.
- **School Books:** Children will receive a Homework diary where they are required to write down the homework for the week. Homework is written on a whiteboard in each class and **it is the responsibility of the children to copy this to their homework diary.** They will also have their yellow Reading Record book, reading books,, Literacy Homework A4 book and “My Maths” online homework. Parents are asked for a contribution to the cost of the Maths subscription.
- **Payments:** The easiest way to pay for anything to do with school (lunches, trips, building fund etc.) is online via the school website - see below

<http://www.stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk/>

Home	School Life	Diary	FoSM	Policies and Documents	Pre-School	Contact Us
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## Pay school on-line

Pay School on-line

[Pay online](#) to St. Mary's Catholic Primary School - The lunch payment system (Scopay) has been adapted for school payments.

If you already use the Scopay system you will be able to log in using your current details. If you have not used the online payment system previously, instructions on setting up an account may be downloaded [here](#). Your child's Online Link Code can be obtained from the school office.

All payments will be made directly via WorldPay to: St. Mary's Catholic Primary School, Cookham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7EG.

Please note that your bank statement will display "St. Mary's" for these payments.

Payments can be made by debit card only.

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Coming up:

### Golden Time / Rewards / Detention

Juniors get their usual playground playtime but they also get extra ‘Golden’ time on a Friday. This is 20 minutes BUT ... golden time can also be taken away minute by minute...i.e. If Reading Records are not signed a minute is docked off a child’s Golden time. If more than 3 minutes are docked off that means detention.

For good behaviour the children receive Stars, Merits, Awards, or House Points and they can be chosen by their peers to be the ‘Light’ during class worship which is always a real honour. Lower juniors manage their own class worship themselves twice a week in groups of 4 and the ‘Light’ at these worships is an individual chosen specifically by their peers.

However, for bad behaviour, not handing in homework, repeatedly not having a signed reading or homework diary etc. the children may receive detention which means they will be asked to stay in the class during lunch and work instead of playtime.

### Homework

The major ‘shock’ for the majority of Year 2 parents moving to Year 3 is the level of homework. This IS manageable but does mean a different mindset!

Your child would have been used to the everyday reading and perhaps bringing in a few items once or twice a term to support a project they are working on in Year 2.

In Year 3 the homework is 4 fold and includes:

- Maths – This is completed online and via the “MY Maths” subscription.
- Literacy - they receive a Literacy book where each week they need to complete a Comprehension task of up to 18 questions, spellings and occasionally handwriting practice
- Reading every day
- Topic/Project work

Exercise books/tasks for the next week’s homework are given out on a **Friday** - you may want to make a start on homework on the weekend or at least you can ensure the books are in the rucksacks for the next week’s homework.

Homework must be handed back in by Thursday.

## Projects

There are usually 2 or 3 big projects a year that can be quite time consuming. These are based around the topic of the term i.e. Greeks or Romans, or Plants or Rivers etc.

A number of weeks are allocated for these projects **BUT THIS TENDS TO FLY BY**. Children are asked to Research the project and decide what they would like to focus on. They are then asked to create a model, artefact or piece around their chosen ‘focus’ i.e. for a Roman project the models have ranged from a Roman banquet, to a 1/4 sized chariot; to a lot of helmets, shields and spears!!

In addition the children will be given shorter ‘research’ projects where they are asked to learn about a specific topic and then create a presentation about this topic. This is a verbal presentation backed up by either hand drawn posters or computer aided slides i.e. Powerpoint.

**There is always a large amount of time allocated to these projects but it is best to start early to avoid last minute panics or not having enough equipment i.e. paper for papier mache; toilet rolls for multiple things; glue; imagination etc. etc!!**

The most important thing you can do for your children in Year 3 is PARENT INVOLVEMENT:

- Parents are asked to sign the Homework diary on a Thursday, brought into school on Friday.
- Parents are asked to sign the reading record every day
- **IF THESE ARE NOT SIGNED THERE IS A CHANCE YOUR CHILD MAY HAVE THEIR GOLDEN TIME REDUCED OR GET DETENTION.**
- ***It is the child’s responsibility to write down their homework; the parents responsibility to ensure it is done in time***
- Your child will need to do the project/topics work but will need adult help for cutting, sticking, getting equipment etc. Allow yourself plenty of time for this as half a term or a term flies by without having even started a project!!

## TIPS FROM A YEAR 3 PARENT

- **SIGN YOUR CHILD'S READING BOOK EVERYDAY** - if not Goldentime may be deducted
- **SIGN YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK BOOK EVERY WEEK** - if not Goldentime may be deducted
- Encourage your child to complete their homework diary. Get them in the habit of writing in the homework diary and showing/telling you what their homework is for the week
- Ask your child every day what homework they have for that day and when it is due
- **GET IN THE HABIT OF DOING HOMEWORK** - you may need to consolidate your homework over 2 days instead of a week due to after school commitments; you may like to try to do some over the weekend; you may need to do a little bit every day or may have more time in the mornings - it depends on your child and your own circumstances but it is best to get into a habit for both you and your child rather than rushing.
- Ensure your child hands in their homework in time to avoid potential detention.

## TIPS FROM A YEAR 3 CHILD

- Make sure your writing is neat or you will have to start all over again
- Detention is the worst; getting stars or being the light is the best
- Keep quiet during line up time/when the whistle blows and during class
- Remember to ask your parents to sign your homework diary
- Remind your parents to sign your reading book
- Do your homework in time
- Enjoy your work and never give up!

We hope this information is useful to you as we near the end of the term. Good luck to you and your child moving into Juniors next term; have a great Summer and if you ever have any queries please reach out to your class representative:

- Upper Juniors - Linzi O'Haire;
- Lower Juniors - Justine Moore, Emma Dixon, Sylwia Orzel
- Infants- Maria Beasley, Maria Hanley, Vicky Hern, Emma Wilkins

Kind regards

St Mary's Parent Council