

## Olveston Primary School

# Frequently Asked Questions

Whether your child is about to start school for the first time, or perhaps you just want to find out a little bit more about Olveston Primary, we have answered some of the most commonly asked questions. Please contact the school if you would like to know more.

---

1. **What will my child need at school?**
  2. **What will my child learn at school?**
  3. **How will I know how my child is getting on in school?**
  4. **What happens during the day at school?**
  5. **How can I help my child at home?**
  6. **Can I help at school?**
  7. **What should I do if my child is ill?**
  8. **Can I take my child on holiday in term time?**
- 

### **1. What will my child need at school?**

Children will need the appropriate school dress. We recommend the following:

**Girls** - navy blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan; grey skirt or pinafore dress or trousers; white or blue blouse or shirt; navy blue or grey tights or white socks; black or dark shoes. In summer a blue and white checked or striped summer dress.

**Boys** - navy blue sweatshirt or jumper, grey shorts or trousers, white or blue shirt, black or dark shoes.

Quality sweatshirts and tee shirts with the school badge are available for purchase from the office on Wednesdays.

P.E. requirements vary according to the game lessons. Your child's class teacher will inform you when and what is required. Navy blue shorts and white top with trainers is standard. The school encourages parents to purchase a school folder, which is used to carry homework items. Your child's teacher will use this to send home reading books/word cards/reading logbook etc.

If your child has sandwiches at lunchtime then they will require a lunchbox. Small plastic ones with handles are best.

Children are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit for their mid morning break. Water is available in school throughout the day however you may wish your child to have a small carton of drink to have with their morning break.

### **2. What will my child learn at school?**

At Olveston School we pride ourselves on giving children the very best possible start to their education. We aim that each child will develop educationally, socially and spiritually to its maximum potential.

The areas of the National Curriculum are outlined in more detail in the School Prospectus - this covers the main areas of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

The Foundation Stage, introduced from September 2000, is a new stage of education for children aged from three to the end of the reception year. "Early Learning Goals" in the six areas of learning lay a secure basis for children's future learning, and give an indication of what children know and can do by the end of the reception year.

National Literacy and Numeracy strategies are followed according to the development of your child. Letter sounds are taught from "Letterland" and the "Jolly Phonics" programmes. An outline of your child's year/term plan will be found in the appendices at the back of this handbook.

We recognise that you may have other questions that we have not answered in this booklet and would encourage you to seek answers to these from the Class Teacher or Headmaster as and when these become apparent. We have an "open door" policy so that worries can be discussed and questions can be quickly answered as they occur.

### **3. How will I know how my child is getting on in school?**

The school has an "open door" approach to sharing information about your child's progress and in answering individual questions. Teachers are available after school according to individual commitments. Please speak to your child's teacher to arrange a convenient time to talk.

A yearly cycle of formal meetings is held.

**Autumn Term** - held early in November.

A year ahead meeting is held for all parents. Information about the class routine, topics, class visits and other day to day issues such as homework are presented with information sheets to take away. Also a progress report is held in the Autumn Term.

**Spring Term** - held during the last two weeks of the term.

A formal report on your child's progress is sent home, the core subjects of Mathematics, Literacy and Science are focused on. Parents are encouraged to add a comment to this report. An appointment time to see the teacher is sent to every parent after they have received the report. This provides the opportunity to view and discuss your child's progress.

**Summer Term** - held early in July.

An Open Afternoon is held in which you are invited to see the school in action! Children act as 'tour guides' visiting key areas.

An end of term report is sent home in July. In Year 2 and Year 6 the report includes the results of the formal S.A.T.'s (Standard Assessment Tasks). These are Nationally set tasks that take a snapshot of a child's achievement in the core subjects. The Year 6 papers are marked externally and reported on in national league tables. All year groups receive a report illustrating progress and curriculum covered in the National Curriculum subjects.

### **4. What happens during the day at school?**

**9.00am** The school bell is rung. The children line up in specified areas. The day begins! The structure of the day is similar in each year group. First, children are registered and the daily administrative issues are dealt with.

**9.05am** The first of two main lessons starts, LITERACY or MATHEMATICS.

**10.10am** The bell rings for school assembly in the Hall.

**10.30am** After assembly, the children have a playtime with staff on duty monitoring welfare. Children usually have a drink (brought carton or water from the fountains) and a piece of fruit from home. Children are encouraged to use this time to visit the toilet. After breaktime the second main lesson starts.

**12.00 pm to 1.15pm** Lunchbreak for KS1

**12.15 pm to 1.30pm** Lunchbreak for KS2

Lunchtime is staggered so that we have maximum staff supervising the KS1 children. The year 6 children join the younger children to help support the lunchtime supervisors. If the weather is wet, children have playtime activities in their own classroom. We encourage the Year 6 children to support in each of the three KS1 classrooms.

**2.45pm to 3.00pm** KS1 children have a playtime

**3.30pm Home time** Your class teacher will line the children up inside the classroom prior to passing them onto you. Children will not leave the Reception and Year 1 classrooms until their parent/carer is seen. Later in the year children are encouraged to look for their parent in the immediate playground, returning to their classroom if parent/carer is not there.

## **5. How can I help my child at home?**

Homework will require support in different ways as your child moves through the school. Details are explained during the September parents' evenings. Reading folder/homework diary; the younger children start with a reading folder that has guidelines for parents included. The parent comment section is for succinct notes to the teacher. Please remember that as the teacher has a limited time with each child, the more detailed parent comments can detract from their efficiency! Homework diaries provide a two-way information channel and give parents an insight into their child's curriculum.

## **6. Can I help at school?**

At the September Parents' Meeting your class teacher will ask those who can help for times when you may be available and curriculum areas you are confident in. Opportunities to help vary from repair/making jobs at home to helping with school visits. A major support is to help the school Parents' Association, called F.O.O.S. (Friends Of Olveston School).

## **7. What should I do if my child is ill?**

Please telephone school on the first morning of absence between 8.45am and 9.30am. A follow-up letter with reasons for absence is appreciated. As a rule children should not return to school until 24 hours after sickness or diarrhoea has stopped. Children should not be sent to school with infectious diseases, please check with your GP if you are not sure. If your child has been really poorly please consider that your child will be more susceptible to other minor illness if return to school is rushed. It is essential that we have up-to-date contact numbers in the event of your child being unwell whilst in school. A contact form will be provided for you to complete before your child starts school. Please make sure you notify the office of any changes.

## **8. Can I take my child on holiday in term time?**

Whilst it is recognised that holidays can provide many valuable learning opportunities, it is not recommended that you remove your child during the school term if it is not essential. It is impossible to catch up on the amount of work that would be missed during a week's holiday and it can be unsettling for a child when they return after a lengthy absence. Holiday absences also have an effect on the whole class, since 'catch up' teacher support is required. It is not school policy to set homework during extended holidays. Holiday absences must be authorised by the Headteacher in advance and may not exceed ten days in any academic year. Absences will not be authorised during the SATs periods. Please call into the office to collect a form.