



## Radley CE Primary School & Foundation Stage Unit

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Telephone: 01235 520814  
Email: [office@radleyprimary.uk](mailto:office@radleyprimary.uk)  
Web: [www.radleyprimary.uk](http://www.radleyprimary.uk)

Church Road  
Radley  
Abingdon  
Oxfordshire  
OX14 3QF

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Dear Parents,

I am enormously proud of how brilliantly your children have adjusted back to school life after returning last week. The Year 5 children have fully embraced the greater challenges and independence of Thames Class and the Year 6 children are setting a great example as the eldest in the school.

Usually this term I would have held a “welcome to Thames Class” meeting for parents of children starting Year 5. As this was not possible due to Covid-19 restrictions, I am including in this letter the information that I would have shared at a welcome meeting:

### Things to bring to school

Thank you for your punctuality in bringing your child to school by 8:45 and collecting them at 3:10 – this has really helped us to maintain the staggered starts and finish times for the different class bubbles. Please do complete and return the permission form emailed to you, if you are happy for your child to walk home on their own.

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, we request that children do not bring things from home into school unless they are really necessary. There are however a few items that we ask children to have with them.

Please could all children bring a named **water bottle** into school each day. Children should take this home at the end of the day for it to be refilled. In Thames classes, we do not routinely pour out drinks for children at break time, but water bottles are kept in class so that they can be accessed at points throughout the day.

We advise children to bring a **healthy snack** to eat during break time. Thames class now eat their lunch at 12:40 (to enable staggered use of the hall) so it is a slightly longer time to last until lunch this year! Fruit, vegetables, breadsticks or crackers are all fine, but no cereal bars or crisps please, due to their high sugar, fat and/or salt content. Fruit and milk can also be purchased through school.

Children need a pair of **trainers** in school every day, to wear at break times as well as for exercise and PE lessons. We are using the field as much as possible at break times, and also doing the “Daily Mile”, which involves the class walking or running around the school field for 15 minutes each day. We find that the Daily Mile improves children’s focus in lessons, helps to develop positive relationships both amongst children and between children and adults, and develops physical fitness.

PE lessons will usually be on a Thursday (Mr Piper from Ignite Sports will continue to run our Thursday PE session). Please could children have their **PE kit** in school every day in case of timetable changes. PE lessons usually take place outside so a pair of tracksuit trousers rather than shorts is most suitable as we move into the winter.

Children have been given a Thames Diary to help with organisation and enable children to keep a personal record of their reading. This should be brought to school each day along with their reading book.

### Reading

Regular reading helps your child to progress with their learning in so many areas of the curriculum. As well as reading the book that they bring home from school, children benefit from reading any other books that interest them, as well as from listening to stories that are read to them.

During their time at school, children have a daily opportunity to 'Read for Pleasure', listen to a daily class story and will read in a group each week. In addition to this, it is an expectation that ALL children in Thames read for a minimum of 20 minutes a day at home and record this in their Diary with a short comment about what they have read and the page numbers read.

### Homework and spellings

As it has been several months since the children were in school full time, we expect the first few weeks to be a time of adjusting. To help children with this transition back to school, we will be gradually reintroducing homework and spellings over the next few weeks, increasing the amount that we set over the coming months. We will be back in contact with you to let you know more about spellings and homework, what will be expected and how you can support your child.

### Assemblies and celebrations

While we are not currently able to have whole-school assemblies, we are having class assemblies and will also be setting aside regular time in class for discussion, reflection and focus on a Christian value (which, this term, is Relationships). Every Friday we will have a short Celebration Assembly within the class, in place of the whole-school celebration assembly that the children have been used to. During this assembly, we will award a Star of the Week and merit certificates, and review our progress towards filling the school marble jar.

### Curriculum plans

We have started the year with a whole-school focus on the book *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth* by Oliver Jeffers. Children have been doing various activities based on the book, enabling them to feel a sense of community across the school, to reflect on the last few months and look forward to the future in a positive way.

The children will be studying the following topics across the curriculum this term:

English	Here we are – transition unit (variety of writing genres) Diary/Recount writing linked with Earth and Space topic Retelling a Traditional Tale Endangered animal fact file SPAG Reading Comprehension
Maths	Place Value and the Number System Four Operations: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division Fractions
Science	Earth and Space Living Things and their environments
Computing	Computer systems and networks – sharing information Creating media – vector drawing

History/ Geography	The Amazing Americas / world geography The Mayans
DT/ Art	Mixed media linked with 'Here we are' Sketching and portraits Mayan Art - masks Automata animals (cams and levers)
PE	Ignite Sport – mixed team sports
RE	Hindu Gods, worship and the Vedas Harvest How can Brahmin be everywhere and in everything?
MFL	French – introduction unit
Music	BBC 10 Piece Trailblazers: Hans Zimmer - Earth
PSHE	New Beginnings Growth Mindset & Mental Health

I look forward to speaking with you at Parents' Evening in a few weeks. As always, I welcome your questions or feedback, so please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office. It is always best to communicate early and openly should there be any concerns, to ensure a positive, productive and supportive environment for your children.

Thank you for all your support with your child's learning.

Heather Sparks  
Thames Class Teacher