

Useful Contacts

Headteacher

Mrs Anne Nolan

01452 812660

head@cranham.gloucs.sch.uk

Finance Administrator

Ms. Heather Cook

01452 812660

admin@cranham.gloucs.sch.uk

Chair of Governors

Dr Nick Ryan

Chair of Friends of Cranham

Mrs Kerry Buxton



Cranham Church of England Primary School



Starting School Booklet

September 2014

Notes

Notes

Starting School

Starting school for the first time is a very big step. Our aim is to make it as happy and enjoyable an experience as possible. We see it as a three-way communication between school, child and parent. Your help is critical.

Things will go more smoothly in the early days if your child is well prepared and confident, and if you know what is expected of him/her, for example, what sort of things he/she will be doing in school.

We hope this booklet will help you understand what we do and why we do it. You will probably find it helpful to refer to again and again as your child progresses through the first months at school.

We cannot stress enough that if you have any concerns, no matter how small, please come and talk to us. If we don't know about a problem, we cannot begin to resolve it.

The first few weeks in school for any child are the most important. It is during this time that a child forms their own attitude towards school. At first, the children will be attending school for the morning sessions only. This will increase to include lunchtimes before they eventually start staying at school for the whole day.

On the first day of school Mrs Hodges and Mrs Hoyle will be in the playground ready to meet the children. Class 1 children put their reading folder and an item of tuck in a box outside the classroom door and line up when the morning bell is rung.

Times of School

Morning Session 8:45am—12:00pm
Afternoon Session 1:00pm—3:00pm

Children are requested not to be on the school premises before 8.30am when staff supervision in the playground begins.

Please let us know in advance if someone else is collecting your child, and always inform your child's teacher if this is the case. Please remind your child that they should remain with their class teacher if you are not waiting to collect them.

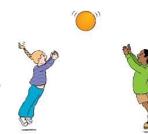
If for some unavoidable reason you find that you are going to be late collecting your child, please let the school know as soon as possible.

For safety reasons you are kindly requested to wait inside the playground at the end of school. If the weather is wet, you are most welcome to wait in the entrance area.

Morning Playtime

After play in the morning, the children have the opportunity to drink milk and to eat a fruit snack provided by the school.

If you wish your child to have milk, then please complete an application form. (Children can have free milk until they are 5 years old)



Key Stage 2

This refers to the four years of junior schooling—Years 3,4,5 and 6.

S.A.T.S.

*These are the **Standard Assessment Tasks** administered to all children at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.*

Some simple games for the family to play at home

Snakes and Ladders
Large jigsaw puzzles with big pieces
Snap and other matching games
Colour or picture dominoes
I spy and other guessing games
Picture Lotto
Ball games
Singing games
Making a scrapbook
Listening games with tapes
Cooking simple things—pastry, small cakes, cheese straws etc.,
Ludo-type games

School Vocabulary

We know that some of you may be unfamiliar with many of the terms and phrases now being used at school. We hope that the following explanations will help. Please ask the class teacher if you need further clarification.

National Curriculum

Statutory guidelines on education set down by the Government for all school children, from Year One upwards.

The Foundation Stage

This begins at pre-school in nursery and continues until the end of the child's first year at school (known as the Reception Year). An assessment is kept throughout this year to keep track of your child's achievements. These may be discussed with you at parents' evenings and used as part of the annual report.

Early Learning Goals

There are seven areas of learning which children cover during the Foundation Stage:-

Prime areas

- *communication and language*
- *physical development*
- *personal, social and emotional development*
-

Specific areas

- *literacy*
- *mathematics*
- *understanding the world*
- *Expressive arts and design*
-

Key Stage 1

This refers to the second and third year of your child's schooling after the Foundation Stage. These years are termed as Year 1 and Year 2.

Lunch Time

The school lunch break is between 12.00 and 1.00pm. Your child can go home, or bring a packed lunch, including a drink.

During lunchtime, the children are cared for by the Midday Supervisors both in the classroom and in the playground. Teachers are always on hand in case of emergency. In the first few weeks a teacher will be there to help newcomers.

If you wish to take your child home for lunch please make sure the teacher knows, and that your child is returned to the playground by 12.55pm.

Please ensure that lunch boxes are named and that drinks are in leak-proof containers (no glass or fizzy drinks please). As a Healthy School we encourage you to provide healthy balanced lunches. At present Cranham School operates a 'nut-free' policy.

If your child is unsettled and eats very little, we will contact you. This is so that you will be made aware of the problem and not necessarily to stop your child from staying for lunch.



School Uniform

We have school uniform which consists of blue sweatshirts, light blue polo shirts and navy/grey trousers. These items can be purchased from the Trutex shop on 01452 413339 or 01453 751133.

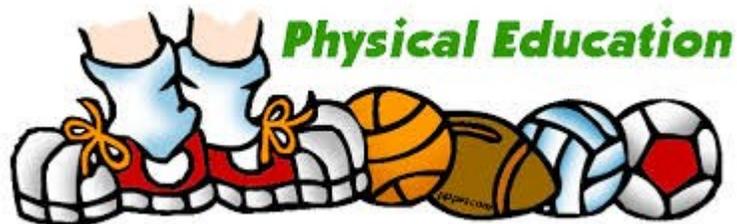
Clothes for PE.

Both boys and girls wear shorts and t-shirt, and occasionally daps. P.E. clothes should be put into a drawstring bag, clearly marked on the outside with the child's name.

Children should wear their PE kit to school on Mondays and Wednesdays. the kit should be returned to school in a bag on Tuesday for the rest of the week.

Please would you help us by:

- * Naming everything your child wears, either with name-tags, or a permanent marker. Shoes should also be named.
- Ensuring that your child wears clothes that are easily managed. i.e. jogging bottoms, and shoes with velcro.



Friends of Cranham School (FOCS)

All parents automatically become members of the Friends of Cranham School. The Friends help to raise much needed funds to enable the school to purchase such things as computers and software, library books, playground equipment and school trips.

Functions include Cheese & Wine evenings, Curry Nights and Cranham Country Show.

In the past, the Friends have been very successful, but can only continue to be so with your support. Please do come along to the meetings, and offer support, however small an offer you may feel it is.

Meetings are advertised in school, on the website and on the school electronic notice board and in letters home to parents. Everyone is welcome to attend



Your Child's Progress

We welcome parental interest and are always prepared to discuss your child with you. Please feel free to speak with your child's teacher to discuss any concerns, however small they may be. The teacher's are usually in the playground at the end of the day. If however, you need a longer or more private discussion, please make a separate appointment.

We keep records of your child's progress both academically and socially, and during their first year in school, children will be assessed according to the Early Years Foundation Stage requirements.

Twice a year, we have open evenings when all parents are invited into school to view the children's work. These evenings are organised on an appointment system, where parents can discuss privately their child's progress and examine their work.

In the Spring term, all parents receive a written report which gives a summary of their child's development and behaviour. If you wish to discuss the report, an appointment can be made with your child's teacher.



Sickness

Children catch all kinds of 'bugs' in their first year at school, and usually a few days at home soon puts things right.

Please do not bring a child to school who has been sick or had diarrhoea within the last 24 hours. The child will feel unwell and unhappy and may well spread an infection throughout the rest of the class.

If your child is unwell and under treatment from the doctor, you would be wise to keep them at home until the treatment has been completed. In these cases please contact the school to inform us before 9am.

Please make sure that the school has an up-to-date telephone number to contact you in case your child is taken ill at school.

If your child suffers from any long-term condition, such as diabetes, asthma, hay fever or food allergy, then the Head teacher should be made fully aware of this before your child starts school. Please keep us informed about hospital visits and the results of these visits during the time your child is attending the school.

Head lice are unfortunate visitors to schools! It would be a good idea to check your child's hair at least once a week and treat immediately if head lice are found. Guidelines on treatment are available from the school office.



Home to School Reading

Within the first few days at school, your child will bring home a picture/reading book and a reading record and comment book.

We value your written comments in this book as this encourages a positive home to school link.

Comments such as “enjoyed this book”, or “enjoyed telling stories from the pictures” are helpful, but please comment in any way you wish.

Please make sure your child brings both books back to school every day. Cranham School reading folders are available from Trutex.

Please take time to read the separate booklet we have produced on Reading.

Helping your child to cope

Starting school can be an exhausting business—emotionally, physically, socially and mentally, so don't worry if your child comes home feeling very tired.

Don't be surprised if your child feels reluctant to tell you what he has been doing at school. You will probably have the same answer as other parents—“nothing” or “just playing.” A child likes to have a private world, something special to him or her, but in time they will want to share it with you.

Try to be patient and one day you will hear who spilled the paint, who liked playing in the sand and who learned some new words that day!

Comparisons

Most parents feel that their child is very special to them. He or she looks different, reacts differently and is an individual. It is therefore very upsetting and damaging to a child's self-confidence and self-respect to be compared with another child. It will make him or her feel unloved and insecure.

Playing Together

Your child should be used to playing with children of a similar age. Through play your child learns to mix and share and to take turns, all of which are very important since they are all part of growing up.

Your child probably plays with friends (even if they do fall out regularly!) and again this helps your child settle into school more quickly if he or she knows some of the children in the class.

At school, children will have many opportunities to learn through play as this is a vital form of developing their knowledge, skills and understanding.

