



A Parent's guide to Year 5/6

Welcome to Year 5/6! Following parent requests we have compiled this question and answer sheet to help you survive the first few weeks back in September! We are delighted to warmly welcome you and your child to life at the top end of Key stage 2.

When do we come back to school? Where do we go on the first morning?

Term officially begins on Wednesday 3rd September, however this will be an INSET day. We will therefore start back to school on **Thursday 4th September** at the usual time. On the first morning you are welcome to drop your child by the Year 5/6 gate where, once the gate has been opened, they may make their way around to the large playground. You are then free to go as there will be an adult out on duty every morning. The children will then enter their classes after the whistle is blown at 8.40am. Your child's teacher will be ready and waiting for them in their new classroom!

Where can I drop off and pick up my child? What times?

Please drop off your child at the Year 5/6 gate – the gate opens at 8:30am and closes at 8.50am. The children will then enter their classes after the whistle is blown at 8.40am and we would like your child in school by 8:50am when the registers close. We finish school at 3:30pm and, if you wish to meet your child, you can pick your child up from the car park outside the Year 5/6 gate. The children will be dismissed at the small Year 5/6 gate at 3:30, they are free to walk out of school independently if you choose.

Can I bring my child into the classroom?

We want our children to be equipped as happy, independent problem solvers and so we promote independence. We expect to see the Year 5/6 children coming in independently, from the gate, carrying all they need for that day, including a water bottle, and settling themselves to their start of the day activities. Please support us by saying goodbye to your child before they come through the Year 5/6 gate. If you have any queries, we have an open door policy and please do not hesitate to make an appointment at the school office if you have any concerns. Quick requests can usually be addressed before school, but please be aware that this is a busy time of day for teachers and it may be more appropriate to make an appointment for after school. We welcome handwritten messages that your child can hand to us to enable them to develop their confidence and independence.

What days does my child need a PE kit? What do they need in their kit?

In Year 5/6, the children will take part in at least 2 PE lessons each week. This includes an indoor PE session and an outdoor PE session. Your child needs a white t-shirt and navy or blue shorts, socks and a pair of trainers. If they need an additional layer in the colder months, your child can wear their school jumper or cardigan and some tracksuit bottoms. *We still do Outdoor PE when it is cold!* At Uplands, we come to school "PE Ready" which means your child comes to school in their PE kits, and will remain in their kits all day. Please refer to our uniform policy to confirm your child's uniform needs. We will confirm PE days for your child in September..

Is the uniform changing and where can I buy new uniform from?

A copy of our uniform expectations, including hairstyles, jewellery and shoes, can be found on our website. We are not changing the uniform. There is no expectation to have logoed uniform however you are able to purchase logoed items (including PE kit) from Skoolkit in Fareham. We encourage you to make use of our regular second hand uniform sales, as well as purchasing lower cost items from supermarkets.

What equipment will my child need? Will they need it on the first day?

Whilst we have a certain amount of equipment in school, we would like all children in Year 5/6 to have their own pencil case with key items in. This helps children be more independent and organised to maximise their learning time. Essential items are: *HB pencil, blue biro for their handwriting pen, ruler, rubber, sharpener, named glue stick, a highlighter, a small range of coloured pencils*. Please name as much of this equipment as possible. Any pencil case they wish to bring needs to fit in their school tray alongside other items. Bringing this equipment in for the first day is essential.

When children move onto pen they will require a Blue Biro **or** handwriting pen.

What kind of bag will my child need?

Your child should bring a rucksack to school, where they can carry their reading book, lunch box and small snack pot. **Please do not send your child to school with a big rucksack as we do not have the space to accommodate this.**

Will my child be given a reading book?

Children should have a suitable reading book with them every day. This could be their own book from home or their chosen library book. Each day there is allocated time for the children to read. It is much more beneficial for the children to continue with a book they are currently enjoying as opposed to borrowing one for a short time from the teacher. We encourage you to talk to your child about their reading (and listen to them read) regularly and we would love to hear your child sharing things about their reading in their reading record

Will I need to provide a water bottle?

Yes please, a clearly named water bottle is an essential item the children must have.

What are the lunchtime arrangements?

Year 5/6 will stop for lunch at 12:15pm and have lunch as a year group. The children will go in to eat their lunch at 12.15pm before resuming at 1:15pm in the afternoon when lessons will begin.

Do I have to pay for school dinners? What is the cost and how do I pay?

In years 3,4,5 and 6, the children do need to pay for school dinners, which are £3.20. There is a red or a green option each day, as well as a blue jacket potato option.

Can my child bring in a packed lunch?

Yes. Please make sure that the lunchbox is clearly labelled with the children's name and class. All lunchboxes are put on a trolley outside the classroom and wheeled to the hall. Occasionally, lunchboxes are placed on the wrong trolley so a clearly labelled box helps us to return the lunchbox to the correct owner, or the children to locate their own. Please note that we are unable to reheat any packed lunches and children should not be bringing in hot food in Thermos type containers. Unfortunately we are unable to ensure this meets food hygiene and safety standards. Healthy lunches are recommended.

What snacks can my child bring in? Can they still buy a snack and/or have milk?

All pupils are allowed to bring in a healthy snack in a labelled container or bag with their name on. Examples of healthy snacks include fruit, vegetables or crackers. We also sell snacks from the kitchen each Friday. Please put money in a named purse or wallet. If you would like your child to receive milk (which is not free in KS2) this year, please speak to a member of the office staff.

What will my child learning in the first few weeks?

Please check our Curriculum Newsletter for lots information about our learning in the Autumn Term.

What days will homework be set and when does it need to be in?

We will set homework using our online learning platforms. Children will be set a spelling task each week on Spelling Shed. They will also have maths homework set on Mathletics – the children will be given log in information in September. Furthermore, in preparation for SATs, the children may also have some homework set in the Spring Term.

Who are the staff on the team?

The Year 5/6 team is structured into 3 different classes; Hawks, Eagles and Falcons. Miss Cottam is Year 5/6 Team Leader and is teaching Hawks' class as part of a job share with Mrs Gravestock. Mr Wells is the class teacher of Eagles class and Mrs Browne is the class teacher of Falcons. Mrs West will continue to support the teaching and learning across the Year 5/6 cohort, as well as other members of our wider support staff team who will be working with groups and individuals across the cohort.

Will Mrs Vincent still be available?

Mrs Vincent's role is not changing. She will still be available to all children and will be on the main gate most mornings.

How can I help my child to be ready for the change of class?

We are proud of our staff at Uplands and the high quality teaching and nurture that each teacher provides; give the children chance to talk about their new teacher and class at home and reassure them that their teacher will help them to be the best they can be. Consider play dates over the summer holidays with some of the new faces that may be in your child's new class so that children begin to form new relationships even before the term has started!

Who do I speak to if I have a concern?

Please speak to the class teacher in the first instance. You can contact the school via e-mail, letter, phone call or by making an appointment through the office. Mrs Vincent and SLT are usually on the gate in the mornings and can pass messages on or clear up any quick queries.

Will breakfast club and after school club be available during the first week?

Breakfast club will be running from the first day back. It will be £5.50 per child, per session. You will be able to book online via SCOPAY.

In September, we are delighted to be working with a new after school provider – Sprouts! Sprouts will begin on the first day back and more information regarding the provider and how to book can be found on the [website](#).

When will any teacher led clubs start?

We are excited by our club offer for September. Please look out for a separate letter detailing the clubs on offer for September and how to sign up.

My child is on the SEND register. Will they still receive support?

Teachers will ensure that they have passed all key information on about the children in their class. Any child on the SEND register will continue to have the same support as this year. If you are concerned in any way you can ask to speak to Mrs Bagley or raise your concerns with the new teacher when you meet them in September.

Can I be involved in any way?

We are always grateful for help, especially as we work hard to ensure all children have the chance to catch up following the closure. You can support us by coming in to read with our children if you have any spare time! Please pick up a pack from the office to support us with our safer recruitment procedures.

Where can I find key dates about next year?

Our calendar section on the website will have some key dates on and we also send them out with our newsletters.

I have had a change of circumstances, what do I do?

Please inform the office if your contact details have changed in anyway. If you become in receipt of any benefits, please let us know as the school may be able to claim extra money to support your child in school. If you feel that your child may be in need of additional pastoral care then please contact Mrs Vincent or the Class teacher. You can also contact Miss Dalingwater if there is a safeguarding concern or an issue you would like to keep confidential.

How can I support my child over the holidays so that they are ready to learn?

In Year 5/6 we expect the children to confidently know their times tables and division facts up to 12x12. We also encourage all children to take part in the summer reading challenge hosted by the local libraries. Encourage them to write a diary about their holidays, it would be lovely to hear about all the amazing adventures your child gets up to in the holidays.

Keeping safe

Keeping all our pupils safe is at the heart of what we do. To help us with this you could:

- Enter the school through the main entrance so we know how many adults we have on site at any one time. Please do not enter the school building through classroom doors or side doors at pick up and drop off times.
- Send your child to re-enter the building at the end of the day if they have forgotten items.
- Wait outside if you are picking your child up from after school clubs.
- Ensure that your child knows how they are getting home and be on time to collect them at the end of the day.
- Sign in at the office if you are entering the school to help or for a meeting.

It is not that we do not want to engage with you but we don't always know all the adults who may be picking up or dropping off. As we have pupils on site from 7:30 am to 6pm every day, we need to ensure that we are aware about who is in the building at all times.

What special projects are there during Year 5/6?

Bikeability/ Cycle training – Cycle training is provided free of charge later on in the year. Letters will come out as appropriate for these.

Year 6 Citizenship award – Year 6 are asked to work towards a citizenship award during the course of the whole year. There are many parts to this such as voluntary jobs and raising money for charity. This award will be launched in September.

Residential Visits – both year 5 and year 6 have the opportunity to take part in a residential visit. We encourage all children to attend these as they are excellent opportunities for the children to challenge themselves, learn about teamwork and spend time away from home. More information about these will be delivered in letters throughout the year.

Swimming – Year 5 will take part in swimming lessons this year as part of the PE curriculum. If your child is a non-swimmer, they will still be required to take part in swimming lessons so preparing your child by getting them used to being in water (floating, submerging, placing their face in water) would be very beneficial. A letter will come out closer to the time asking about your child's swimming ability.

Other key information you will need to know:

- We will not be authorising any holidays during term time.
- If you need to contact the school during the holiday for really urgent issues for example, notifying us about a bereavement, you can e-mail the school office but please note we might be away and will deal with your e-mail as soon as possible.
- Music lessons are organised by Hampshire Music Service and if your child is having music lessons a letter will come home informing you of this.
- Information regarding Rocksteady will be released separately once we have had our dates confirmed.
- A copy of our Behaviour Policy is available on our school website for you to view.

We are very much looking forward to working with you all next year and we believe strongly that an excellent parent-school relationship leads to our children being most successful. We value our open-door policy and welcome your comments and check-ins if you have any concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact us over the last few weeks of term if you have anything you wish to discuss with a member of the team.

Have a super summer break!