

A Parent's guide to Key Stage 2 (Year 3/4)

Welcome to Year 3/4!

We're so pleased to welcome you and your child to life in Year 3/4! It's been wonderful hearing all about their adventures in KS1 and Year 3, and we can't wait to work with them as they continue to grow, learn, and thrive over the next few years.

When does school start? Where do we go on the first morning?

The new term begins on Thursday 4th September.

On the first morning, please bring your child to the small playground. At 8:40am, the side door will open and children can come into their classrooms. At the end of the day, children will be collected from the small playground.

Drop-off and Pick-up Information:

Drop-off: Small playground — gates open at 8:30am. A member of staff is on duty on the gate so you may leave your child at this time.

Classroom doors open: 8:40am.

Registers close: 8:55am: please ensure your child is in school by then.

Pick-up: 3:30pm from the small playground. ***All Year 3/4 children must be collected by an adult from the small playground – they will not be dismissed out of the gates on the playground.***

Can I bring my child into the classroom?

In Year 3/4, we encourage children to develop their independence — coming into school on their own, carrying their own bags and water bottles, and settling into their morning activities.

We kindly ask that you say goodbye to your child on the playground. This helps them feel confident and independent right from the start of the day.

We operate an open-door policy and are always happy to talk. Quick messages can usually be shared with a member of staff in the morning, but please understand that it can be a busy time. For longer chats, feel free to make an appointment for after school.

You are also welcome to send in handwritten messages with your child — it's a great way for them to practise their confidence and communication skills!

What days does my child need their PE kit? What should be in it?

In Year 3/4, we do PE twice a week – one indoor session and one outdoor session. We'll let you know your child's specific PE days in September.

At Uplands, we come to school "PE Ready", which means your child should arrive at school already wearing their PE kit and will stay in it all day.

PE Kit Checklist:

- White t-shirt
- Navy or blue shorts
- Socks
- Plimsolls or trainers
- School jumper or cardigan (for colder days)
- Navy or black tracksuit bottoms (for outdoor PE in colder weather)

We still do outdoor PE even when it's cold, so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately!

For more details, please refer to our uniform policy on the school website.

Is the school uniform changing? Where can I buy it?

Good news – there are no changes to our school uniform.

You can find a full list of our uniform expectations — including guidance on hairstyles, jewellery, and shoes — on our school website.

There's no requirement to buy logoed uniform, but if you'd like to, items (including PE kits) are available from Skoolkit in Fareham.

We also encourage families to make use of our regular second-hand uniform sales, and you're very welcome to buy plain items from supermarkets or other high-street retailers to help keep costs down.

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

In KS2, we would like the children to bring a **small** pencil case with their own belongings in. Please bring these in on the first day. These pencil cases will remain in school and be kept on the child's table. Please ensure that the contents of the pencil case and the pencil case itself is named.

Please do not send your child in with a bulky pencil case as these are too big and they are a distraction.

In their pencil case, they will need:

- 2 **writing** pencils
- A glue stick
- Colouring pencils
- A pencil sharpener.
- A ruler
- A rubber

Please **do not** send scissors, colouring pens, writing pens, gel pens etc. The children will not be able to use these items.

The school will have a small supply of the items listed above – if you would like us to provide these, please let us know.

What kind of bag will my child need?

Your child should bring a small backpack to school, where they can carry their reading book, water bottle and a small snack pot.

Will my child be given a reading book?

During the first two weeks of term, we'll be carrying out reading assessments with the children. If needed, we'll choose an appropriate sharing book for you and your child to enjoy together at home.

These books are carefully selected to help build confidence and fluency. They are designed to be read together, so your child may need a bit of help with some words — and that's absolutely fine! Sharing a book is a great way to support their reading development.

Books will be changed once a week with the support of an adult, to make sure they're the right level for your child. We will also visit the library each week where children will be able to choose a book to bring home.

Will I need to provide a water bottle?

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

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

Yes, school dinners cost £3.20 for KS2 children and this can be paid on Scopay. Please speak to the office if you have any questions regarding this.

Can my child bring in a packed lunch?

If your child is bringing a packed lunch, please make sure their lunchbox is clearly labelled with both their name and class.

All lunchboxes are placed on a trolley outside the classroom in the morning and then wheeled to the hall at lunchtime. Occasionally, lunchboxes can end up on the wrong trolley, so clear labelling really helps us get them back to the right child quickly.

A few important notes:

- We're unable to reheat any packed lunches.
- Please do not send hot food in Thermos-style containers — we cannot guarantee these meet food hygiene and safety standards.
- In hot weather, we recommend adding an ice pack to keep food fresh.
- Healthy lunchboxes are encouraged to help keep children focused and energised throughout the day.

Thank you for your support in keeping lunchtimes safe and smooth!

Snacks

Children can bring two healthy snacks (one for morning, one for afternoon).

Snacks should be in a labelled container or bag with the child's name.

Healthy snack examples: fruit, vegetables, crackers.

School snacks are available for purchase—please send money in a named purse or wallet.

Learning in the First Few Weeks

Please refer to the Curriculum Newsletter for detailed information about what your child will be learning during the Autumn Term.

Homework.

Reading: Children should read regularly and record it in their reading record.

Maths Homework: Will be set on Mathletics.

Spelling Homework: Will be set on Spelling Shed.

Note: Seesaw will no longer be used.

Login details for platforms will be provided at the start of term.

Staff in Year 3/4 Team

Ocelots: Mrs Tilley

Jaguars: Mrs Andrew & Miss Dunger

Tigers: Miss Doherty

A support team also works across the school and will be working with us across Year 3/4.

Mrs Vincent

Mrs Vincent remains the Pupil and Family Support Worker.

She will continue to be available to children and can usually be found at the main gate most mornings.

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

Starting a new school year can bring a mix of excitement and nerves. One of the best ways you can support your child is by talking positively with them about the changes ahead. Chat about all the things they might be looking forward to—making new friends, meeting their new teacher, exciting activities, and learning new things.

At Uplands, we are incredibly proud of our dedicated staff and the high-quality teaching and nurturing environment they provide. Encourage your child to talk about their new class and teacher, and reassure them that their teacher is there to help them grow, feel confident, and be the best they can be.

To help your child feel more comfortable, consider arranging playdates over the summer holidays with other children who may be in their new class. Building early connections can help your child feel more settled and excited when term begins.

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 a member of the leadership team are usually on the gate in the mornings and can pass messages on or clear up any quick queries.

When will I have the chance to meet the new teacher?

We always hold a Meet the Teacher Evening at the start of term and you will receive further information about this at the start of the new term.

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

Breakfast club will be running from the first day back (Monday 4th September). The cost from September 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](#).

My child is on the SEN 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 SEN 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, our SENDco 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. You can support us by supporting with trips, to come in to help with DT/art projects or 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 INSET days are as follows – they can also be found on our school calendar on the website.

Wednesday 3rd September

Friday 24th October

Monday 5th January

Monday 23rd February

Monday 1st June

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

Please inform the office if your contact details have changed in any way. 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?

Keep Reading Daily!

Read Together: Share bedtime stories or take turns reading chapters.

Library Visits: Let them choose books on topics they love (dinosaurs, mysteries, etc.).

Talk About Books: Ask, "What do you think will happen next?" or "Would you have done that if you were the character?"

Use Maths in Real Life!

Cooking Together: Weighing ingredients and measuring—great for fractions and multiplication.

Money Skills: Give them a small budget in a shop or for a day out.

Games: Play board games like Monopoly, Uno, or card games to build logic and number fluency.

Encourage Writing for Fun

Journals or Scrapbooks: Let them record holiday memories or write about places they visit.

Letters/Postcards: Write to friends or family—real or pretend!

Creative Prompts: "Imagine you found a secret door in the garden..."

Build Independence & Routines

Daily Chores: Help them take responsibility in small ways (packing a bag, making a snack).

Time Management: Use visual schedules or planners to balance screen time, play, and rest.

Keep Them Curious

Nature Walks: Collect leaves, track insects, spot birds—then research what you find.

Simple Experiments: Kitchen science like making slime, growing seeds, or freezing/melting objects.

Museums & Free Activities: Visit local places with interactive exhibits or trails.

Social & Emotional Skills

Playdates or Clubs: Help them practise sharing, resolving conflict, and cooperation.

Talk About Feelings: Reflect on what went well each day and what was tricky.

Growth Mindset Talk: Celebrate effort, not just results ("You kept trying!").

Light, Regular Review

If you're keen on some formal practice:

Short Bursts: 10–15 min max per day of revision books or apps (e.g. Maths, BBC Bitesize, DoodleMaths, ReadTheory).

Focus on Strengths: Start with what they enjoy and feel confident with to build momentum.

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 the main entrance 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.

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're really looking forward to working with you all next year! We firmly believe that a strong partnership between home and school helps our children thrive, and we value the open, positive relationships we build with our families.

Our open-door policy means you're always welcome to get in touch—whether it's to share a concern, ask a question, or simply check in. Please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the team during these final weeks of term if there's anything you'd like to discuss.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer break!