Fairfield Prep School



Year 3

Information Booklet

2021-22

This booklet introduces you to what your child can expect from being in Year 3. The booklet also highlights the changes that they will encounter moving up into Fairfield’s Upper Prep Department from our own Pre-Prep Department, or indeed from another school.

**The Year 3 staff are:**

Mrs Baxter - Head of Year (3B), Mr Moseley, Mrs Earnshaw (3ME), Mr Prescott (3P) and Mrs Wells, Y3 Teaching Assistant.

All five members of staff aim to provide the best possible education and opportunities for your children in a friendly and family-based atmosphere. Your children will have a wonderful time in the Upper Prep; they will be encouraged to develop their independence and will be presented with a multitude of opportunities.

Your support in reinforcing our aims will be vital to your child’s development.

**INDEPENDENCE**

We place a lot of emphasis on helping the children to become more independent in the Upper Prep.

We have high expectations of the children and encourage them to take more responsibility for themselves and their belongings.

We expect them to:

* leave their Year 3 classes unaccompanied. At the end of the school day, children are told that they must return to their class teacher if no-one is on the courtyard to collect them. The teacher will then escort them to After School Care. Children travelling on the bus will walk to the bus pen together.
* be able to tie their own shoelaces (especially football boots) and ties. Help will be given when it is needed.
* take responsibility for changing their own reading book, once they have become familiar with the range they can choose from. This will be monitored when the children read to a teacher. In Year 3 we use guided and shared reading, alongside individual reading, as tools to help pupils in reading for meaning. Support for this from home is instrumental in ensuring your child’s optimum development.
* keep their desk tidy. This is the first year at Fairfield in which they have their own desks and not drawers.
* organise their books, homework and stationery. Your child will need to bring a variety of items to and from school each day. The bag available in the school shop is ergonomically designed to be beneficial for your child’s posture. Please name this bag on the outside for easy and quick identification.

**TIMETABLE**

The Upper Prep runs to a structured timetable. A copy of your child’s timetable will be in the back of their homework diary so that you are aware of the equipment they will need to bring on any given day.

**SPECIALIST LESSONS**

The majority of your child’s lessons are taught by their class teacher. However, we are fortunate to have a number of specialist teachers at Fairfield and therefore your child will be taught by these staff on a regular basis throughout the year. At present every class in Year 3 has specialist lessons in:

Music, PE, Swimming, Games, Science, Art, Computing and Modern Foreign Languages.

You will have an opportunity to meet your child’s specialist teachers during the Autumn Term Parents’ Evenings.

**THE HOUSE SYSTEM**

Upon joining the Upper Prep, all children and teachers in the Upper Prep are welcomed into one of our four Houses. These are as follows:

Normans, Romans, Saxons or Vikings.

To those unfamiliar with the house system, its benefits are numerous. It gives all the children an opportunity to represent their house in all facets of school life and so it engenders a real sense of belonging. Children can compete for their House in organised competitions such as Sports Day and the Swimming Gala. They also earn House points given out by members of staff for excellent effort, outstanding work or good behaviour.

**EQUIPMENT**

Your child should bring a pencil case with the basic stationery items.

1. 2 HB pencils

2. A 15cm ruler (for headings)

3. A 30cm ruler (for measuring and drawing)

4. A rubber

5. A pencil sharpener and container

6. Pencil crayons

7. A glue stick

8. A compass

9. A protractor

10. Scissors

11. A plastic wallet just over A4 size (for homework)

12. A labelled pencil case

13. Highlighter pens

14. Pocket Dictionary

15. Pocket Thesaurus

On the first day of school you will need a reading book from home and your Games kit.

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Please also bring in an over-sized shirt (short sleeves or cut off long sleeves) that can be painted on at school and become their art shirt.

The children move around the school for different lessons. Therefore, it is vital that **ALL** items are named. This includes shin pads, football boots, socks, gloves, swimming hats and towels. It is very easy for children to lose items of clothing if they are not labelled.

**GAMES**

This takes place on a Friday afternoon.

Boys are taught in Rugby, Football, Hockey, Basketball and Cricket.

Girls are taught in Rugby, Hockey, Football, Basketball, Netball and Cricket.

Swimming and all other aspects of PE are covered in class lessons.

Swimming takes place at the Grammar School Pool. The children are assessed during their first lessons and then are separated into ability groups and are taught accordingly. The assessment process is ongoing. All items that are taken to swimming lessons must be named.

There is a swimming gala during the year to which you will be invited to attend.

**HOMEWORK**

The children will be expected to complete approximately 25 minutes of homework each evening, Monday to Thursday.

Pupils will write what they are expected to do daily in their homework diary which should be read and initialled by an adult when the homework has been completed.

The teacher will check this regularly. It can also be used for teachers and parents to communicate. If a child has a message in their diary, it is their responsibility to bring it to the teacher’s attention during registration.

**SUPPORT STAFF**

If a particular need is identified for your child in a specific area, then your child’s class teacher will co-ordinate this with the support staff available. If through testing, assessment and observation a particular need is identified in your child, then the options of extra support will be discussed between our Learning Support Coordinator, Mrs Coombes, the class teacher and yourselves.

**CLUBS**

There are many extra-curricular clubs on offer to children in Year 3 and the scope of these increases throughout the Upper Prep. A list will be sent out to you so that you can discuss them with your child.

Some are after school and some are at lunchtime. Your child will be informed as and when these clubs/activities become available to them.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS**

Children have the option in Year 3 to have these in school time. The lessons are organised on a rota basis so that the children do not miss the same lesson every week.

The following Firefly page provides much more detailed information and a variety of videos <https://lesfairfield.fireflycloud.net/instrumental-and-vocal-lessons>

Your child’s class teacher will help your child to remember when their lesson is, however, it is ultimately their own responsibility and therefore it would be very helpful if you could help them to practise telling the time at home.

Please contact Mrs Eloise Hipwell, e.hipwell@lsf.org for any matters regarding individual instrumental music lessons.

**FOUNTAIN PENS**

The children will begin to use these later in the year when they have been awarded their highly coveted pen licence. We will send home a letter in the Spring Term, to give you some advice on the type of pens we recommend.

In Year 3 handwriting lessons are taught by Mr Earnshaw.

**ASSESSMENTS, EXAMS AND PARENTS’ EVENINGS**

There are a variety of informal assessments throughout the year in English, Maths and Science. There will also be weekly spelling tests and termly assessments for the core subjects of Maths and English.

Parents’ Evenings will be held in the Autumn and Spring Term.

Reports will be written and sent home annually at the end of the Summer Term.

**FORM CAPTAINS**

Children vote in their class for the boy and girl they feel would best represent the class in a responsible manner. This is done every term.

**MERIT BADGES**

These are awarded to a few children, at the discretion of the class teacher, at the end of each term. They are then worn during the following term.

**PRIZE GIVING**

Prize Giving takes place each year in June. It is a formal occasion to celebrate the successes of the children. All of Year 6 receive a leavers’ prize. Other prizes are also awarded in other areas. For Years 3-5, prizes are awarded in each class as follows: two Form Prizes (one boy and one girl) given for academic success, one Effort Prize, and one Discretionary Prize. If your child is to receive a prize, you will be notified and invited to the ceremony.

There are a lot of changes for your children stepping up from Year 2 into Year 3. Our expectations are high but they are also realistic. Our overriding motivation is for your child’s safety, happiness and their development. With your support this transition will be both a smooth and enjoyable one for them.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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