Ipplepen Primary School & Pre-School

Biltor Road Ipplepen Newton Abbot TQ12 5QL

Heads of School: Mrs. C. Webb and Mrs. K. Arnold

T: 01803 812226 **E:** admin@ipplepen-primary.devon.sch.uk

Sycamore Class Year 6 Parent/Carer Letter

Autumn Term

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very happy to welcome you all back to a new (and final) school year at Ipplepen! To go alongside some fresh and fascinating topics, we already have some very exciting trips and experiences booked to take our learning out of the classroom and inspire everyone to achieve more. Expectations are now at their highest as the children step into their new role as the oldest in the school and we are looking forward to seeing the positive impact we know they will have on our whole school community. We will continue to support the children in developing their independence, in readiness for moving on to secondary school.

School Day

We would like to remind you that the school gates open at 8:45am and registration takes place at 8.55am. Learning activities begin as soon as the children enter the classroom, so arriving on time really helps to maximise learning opportunities. This year, children will **enter the building through the playground door**, which will support a quicker transition and a prompt start to lessons.

The school day finishes at 3:20pm. Gates will open at 3:15pm for parents to come into the playground and children will be dismissed from our classroom door. For safety reasons, any child bringing a bike, scooter, or similar must wear a helmet and dismount before entering the school site, pushing it carefully through the grounds.

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Uniform and belongings

Full school uniform, including smart, plain-black shoes (not trainers), is to be worn every day apart from PE days when children can attend in their PE kit. Long hair must all be tied back.

Please note that the wearing of nail varnish and any jewellery (apart from stud earrings) is not permitted in school.

Please ensure your child has a raincoat with them every day, as the weather can be somewhat unpredictable and that all their belongings are clearly labelled.

During the sunnier weather, please ensure your child has sun cream applied and has a sun hat to wear.

Snacks and Drinks

Children must have a water bottle in school every day, which can be refilled if needed.

Children can bring a fruit or vegetable snack to school to eat at breaktime.

Curriculum

You will find the curriculum overview for this first half term also attached to this email.

Accelerated Reader

We will once again be using Accelerated Reader (Renaissance) to support and encourage

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children's reading. Each half term, the children complete a short assessment to help ensure they are selecting books that provide the right level of challenge - allowing them to both enjoy and progress in their reading.

After finishing a book, children are expected to complete a quiz as soon as possible. They have daily opportunities to do this in school. Each quiz score helps them move towards their reading points target, earn certification levels, and build their word count.

This year, our Year 6 reading incentive is called 'Starbooks' - a fun stamp-collecting scheme designed to celebrate regular reading achievements. Do ask your child to tell you more about how it works!

Reading

Ideally, children should be reading every day for around 15 minutes, but we ask for a minimum of four times a week. All reading should be recorded in their reading record diary, which will be checked each **Wednesday**. House points and rewards will be awarded to children who meet (and exceed) this expectation.

The diary is an important way for us to monitor and celebrate reading, so please encourage your child to keep it up to date. Alongside their Accelerated Reader books, they are very welcome to record any other texts they read for enjoyment or interest. We kindly ask that you sign the diary at the end of each week to confirm you have seen it.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to develop positive reading habits.

Our termly book clubs will continue to take place this year, as well as the Author Island Adventure, information can be found in their reading record.

PE

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This half term, we will have PE on **Mondays and Fridays**. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit, only on these days.

A reminder that our school PE kit is:

Plain black shorts/tracksuit bottoms (not grey)

Plain house-coloured t-shirt

Trainers

School jumper
NO football kits

Outdoor Learning

We will have outdoor learning sessions planned on most **Tuesdays**. Please ensure that your child brings to school with them, sensible outdoor clothing that covers their arms and legs (and may well get dirty) to change into. In cold/wet weather, the sessions will still go ahead so a warm, waterproof coat is needed and waterproof trousers can be worn too. Please also ensure that they always have wellies (packed in a sturdy bag) for these sessions. They can keep this on their peg and on our welly rack or alternatively bring it to school weekly.

Homework

Homework will be **set on Thursday and is due back the following Tuesday**. Each child will have a homework book to take to and from school. This not only supports their learning but also helps to develop the independence and responsibility needed for secondary school.

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Children are expected to **complete two pages in their maths book and two pages in their English book each week**. In most cases, this will be the next two pages, but occasionally this may change - children will always be updated when this is the case. Some tasks will link directly to new learning covered in class, while others will provide valuable revision from previous years. If children have any questions about their homework, they are encouraged to speak to us so we can support them in the best way possible.

In addition, children are expected to practise their times tables and read daily - they can use TT Rockstars to help with this.

Community Lunches

This year, during lunchtime, four alternating children will head out into our community to help serve lunch at the Ipplepen Community Hub (children will have an early lunch at the school). This will take place on the first Wednesday of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our ties with the community and give back.

Mobile Phones (inc. Smart Watches)

We understand that some children bring a mobile phone (and smart watches) so they can communicate on their journeys to and from school. If your child needs to do this, **please ensure we have received an email to confirm it and we have a signed letter (please see the office to obtain one).** On arrival at school, phones and smart watches should be handed directly to Mr. Cawood via the basket. They **must be switched off before entering the school grounds** and will then be stored securely until the end of

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the school day, when they will be returned and only turned back on once off school grounds.

End of day collection

At the end of the day, safety is our priority. It is important for you to inform us of any changes to end of day arrangements, especially in Year 6, as more children start to make their way home independently!

We are really looking forward to another fantastic year of teaching and learning with Sycamore Class and to making the most of all the exciting opportunities Year 6 has to offer; making sure the children grown in independence for their next step beyond us at Ipplepen!

If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office and we will reply as soon as we can.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Cawood and the Year 6 Team.