

FRIENDS OF
UPTON SNODSBURY C of E
FIRST SCHOOL

STARTING SCHOOL
SURVIVAL GUIDE!

Some useful tips and information for
parents/carers of children joining
Upton Snodsbury First School

Welcome to Upton Snodsbury First
School

Some of the existing parent/carers thought it might be a good idea to share information gleaned from lessons learnt or questions asked during the first weeks our own children joined the school. More information can also be found in the School Brochure.

Updated July 2010

Uniform. Uniform is available to order and buy from Karen Baxter in the school office. The uniform consists of:-
Green polo shirt with school logo - suggest getting two.
Or any white short or long sleeved shirt - suggest getting 2/3 if not using the polo shirt.
Any grey trousers or shorts, grey skirt/pinafore or navy trousers for girls - suggest two.
Blue v-neck sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo.
Strong black shoes. Grey socks for boys/white socks or tights for girls.
Navy fleece jacket with logo from school or alternatively any suitable coat.
Hats with logos from school or any suitable hat according to weather.
PE. White t-shirt with logo from school or alternatively any white t-shirt with navy/black shorts and black plimsolls. **Kit is left at school but returned at half term for washing.**
Bookbags. Available with logo from school.
Most supermarkets will now sell these basic uniform items including Tesco/Asda as well as high street stores like M&S.

Labelling. It is essential that all clothes are labelled clearly enough for the child to identify their own. Until year 2 when children go swimming, it is not essential to label items of underwear or socks. M&S do a good service of over the counter iron on labels at £5.00 for 50 labels. If items do go missing, you are welcome to look in the several boxes where lost clothing is collected in school.

The school day. The gates to the school are opened at 8.45am for parents/carers to deliver their children to school and wait if they want until the bell rings at 8.55 when the children go into school. The gates are then locked and access can only be gained through the door next to the office. The gates are again opened at 2.50 pm for parents/carers to wait inside the play area for the children to come out at 3.00pm. Children will be kept at school with a member of staff until a parent/carer collects them. If you are likely to be late in picking up your child at the end of the day, please telephone school as soon as possible.

Teachers. The teaching staff consists of:

Head Teacher - Mrs Lorraine Barber

Green Class - Mrs Laura Jay (Mon, Tues, Weds (am),
Mrs Samantha Dawson (Thurs, Fri)

Red Class - Mrs Pat Holley (plus Reception/Year 1 Weds pm)

Blue Class - Mrs Lorraine Barber (Mon & Tues),
Mrs Jane Lowe (Weds, Thurs, Fri)

Non-Teaching Staff.

Karen Baxter - School Secretary

Kim White, Pauline Perrins - Teaching Assistants

Dali Nedic - Lunchtime Supervisor

Helen Bennett - Cleaner in Charge

Homework. The amount will depend on the age of your child. In Reception, children are encouraged to choose a story or non-fiction book that is suitable for their ability. Please read it with them or to them making book time an enjoyable experience. They will have a reading diary in which you will be asked to write comments and the teacher will also make notes. The books do not necessarily have to be read the same night but could be kept for a few days to allow enough time.

Absence. If your child needs to be away during the school term, please contact Karen Baxter who will pass on the relevant form for completion. This must be done at least four weeks before a planned absence. Holidays during term time will only be authorised if attendance before the planned absence is **good**.

Suntan Lotion. Children may bring bottles of lotion into school. They should be labelled with your child's name. Apply sun lotion before they leave for school, and teach them to apply it themselves during the lunch break.

Food. There is a breaktime during the morning when the children are allowed to eat a **healthy** snack (if they have them) from out of their lunchbox. There is also a large basket of fresh fruit from which Reception, Year 1 and 2 can help themselves. During the lunch time children take their lunchboxes and eat their food either indoors if the weather is poor, or outdoors on the picnic benches. There is no formal policy on lunchbox

contents other than not to include cans of fizzy drinks or bottles and chocolate is not encouraged because of the mess! The school also has "Healthy Schools" status. You are also encouraged to pack a 'waste-free' lunch to support the school's participation in Eco Action Team

Drinks. There is cooled water available in the school and children are encouraged to bring a water bottle (only containing water!) for use during school lessons. These can be refilled from the water cooler during the day.

After School Clubs. These are currently organised for children and details are sent via bookbags.

Communication. Each Friday a newsletter is published on the school website (www.uptonsnodsburyfirstschool.org.uk) which gives information and news. The teachers are always available at the end of each day - please pop in and see them or Mrs Barber. Some parents/carers are not able to deliver and collect their children from school and so may feel they miss the opportunity to get information from either teachers or other parents/carers. If you want to contact your child's teacher you can always phone the office and speak with Karen who can either help you herself or pass on information to the teacher. They can then either come to the phone (if possible), call you back or send answers in the child's book bag. Alternatively a meeting could be arranged. You may also email the school: office@upsnodsfirst.worcs.sch.uk.

To keep in touch with other parents/carers there are several ways: Come along to the regular Friends of Upton Snodsbury School (FUSS) meetings. These gatherings are both informative and fun and you can get as involved as you want. You can also contact a 'Mentor Mum' who has a child at school and if they don't know the answer to your query, they will know someone who does!

Mentor Mums: Liz Hocking (01905 381231) (Mum to James and John)
Gill Edwards (01386 462682) (Mum to Rosie)