

# Shirley Junior School

Belle Moor Road,  
Shirley  
Southampton  
SO15 5XE

☎ 02380 771434 📠 02380 771434 ✉ office@shirleyschools.co.uk 🌐 www.shirleyjuniorschool.org.uk

## Communications and Home Learning at Shirley Junior School

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we start a new school year we would like to let you know how the school communicates with parents and our home learning expectations. We will also be going over some of this information during our Curriculum evening events on September 21<sup>st</sup> (Yr4 at 4.30pm & Yr6 at 5pm) and September 22<sup>nd</sup> (Yr3 at 4.30pm & Yr5 at 5pm).

### **Communication at Shirley Junior School**

At Shirley Junior School, we will communicate with you in several ways, depending on the type of information we need to send you.

#### **Marvellous Me**

- Teachers use Marvellous Me to send messages home
- You will be issued with a join code and can sign up at [www.marvellousme.com](http://www.marvellousme.com)

#### **MCAS (My Child at School)**

- MCAS is the parent communication system linked to our information management system, Bromcom
- The office staff use MCAS to send out messages and the weekly school newsletter
- Parents receive information either:
  - through a notification via the MCAS app (if they have downloaded to app their phone)
  - through an email (if there is no app downloaded)
- A guide on how to access MCAS is available at <https://docs.bromcom.com/knowledge-base/mcas-parent-guide/>
- Information regarding school closures or emergency events will be sent using MCAS/Bromcom

#### **Weekly Comms (School Newsletter)**

- Weekly Comms is sent out each Friday via MCAS
- It contains important notices regarding upcoming school events, messages from the headteacher, celebrations of school achievements, and relevant information regarding wider community events.
- Weekly Comms always contains a list of important dates, and links to letters
- Weekly Comms is also available from the school website

#### **Letters home via Bookbags**

- Please check your child's bag each day for any letters home from teachers or the office.

**Headteacher : Mrs. A Hixon BA Hons NPQH**

**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. J Tearle, PGCE**





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## School Website

- The school website contains information for parents such as the school calendar, uniforms, school contact details, policies, weekly comms and letter home to parents

## SchoolGrid (School dinners)

- SchoolGrid is the website used to order your child's school dinners.
- If you do not set up a SchoolGrid account, your child will not be able to have a school dinner and must bring a packed lunch.
- You will receive an email inviting you to create an account
- You can log in to your account at app.schoolgrid.co.uk

## Telephone

- Any urgent messages regarding your child, such as illness or injury, will be communicated via telephone. Please ensure your contact details are up to date at all times so we can contact
- Teachers may also telephone you to discuss your child's progress

## Home Learning

### Maths

All children are expected to practice their timetables at home regularly to embed the learning in the classroom. This will be set and reviewed by the class teacher.



### Reading

#### Big Cat Little Wandle

This reading scheme allows children to read fully decodable books at the appropriate level to their phonic ability. All children who still need support learning their phonics will be given a reading book from this scheme to practice reading fluently the letters and sounds they have already learnt in school.



#### Reading Planet



This allows our children to access online books to share with an adult at home. It provides graded reading books organised into bands (planets – see below) which cover the whole of Key Stage 1 and 2. It is structured to ensure progression from one book band to the next, so that it enables children to read books suitable for their level of reading development. Children will progress by 2-3 bands on average a year. Information has been passed up from the infants and children will continue with the band they achieved in Year 2. There is both on line and hard copies of reading books for children to read at home. Both the books and logins are being organised by teachers in the next couple of weeks.

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**Focus:** Fluency and Reading for Pleasure

**For:** All children unless they have been told they are a free reader (normally in Y6) or reading Big Cats Little Wnalde scheme (for pupils who still require support with phonics)

**Level of challenge set by:** The class teacher.

**Reading expectations:** Pupils are encouraged to read **4 times a week and complete at least two reading reflections in their planners**

**Login details:** will be provided to children and will be recorded in their planners. The password is 'qwerty' (all lower case)

**Progress overseen by:** class teachers, who will regularly access the system in order to track their pupils' progress

### Reading Planet Book Bands:

Year group	Age	Book Band	Reading Planet level
2-3	7-8	Stars/Lime	11
3	7-8	Mercury/Brown	12
		Venus/Brown	13
4	8-9	Earth/Grey	14
		Mars/Grey	15
5	9-10	Jupiter/Blue	16
5-6	10-11		17
6	10-11	Supernova/Red+	18

### Google Classroom

- Children use google classroom to complete homework.
- All the lesson plans can be found here.
- This is needed to be able to use the Chromebooks.

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## Reading Plus



Reading Plus is an online program that supports reading by focussing on fluency, comprehension and language development. Each online session takes around 35 minutes to complete and includes tasks linked to each of these key reading skills.

**Focus:** Comprehension and language development

**For:** Children in Y4, 5 and 6 to access independently. Y3 readers are assessed after Christmas and individual children start Reading Plus from January onwards

**Level of challenge set by:** The program itself, which adapts to children's needs

**Login details:** will be provided to children and will be recorded in their planners. The password the is 'qwerty' (all lower case)

**Reading expectations:** Pupils are encouraged to complete at **least 2 sessions a week**

**Progress overseen by:** class teachers, who will regularly access the system in order to track their pupils' progress

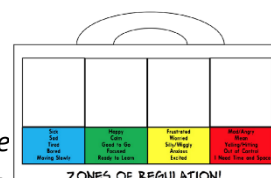
**Reading for Pleasure** - All children will regularly visit the library and will be able to choose one book to bring home and share with an adult.



**Holiday home learning** - Each half term, children will be set a home learning project that they can choose to complete. It is usually a project linked to the learning they will be doing when they return from the break. If you would like any help with ideas or resources to support your child's projects at home please see Karen Allen, Family Support Worker.

**Planners** - We would like children to use their planner all year, for the following things and more (*new features shown in italics*):

- to help them use their *Zones of Regulation toolkit (inside front cover)*
- To record their reading at home and write reflections
- to record any test scores in class on the *learning pages for that week*
- to show how they are feeling in class (red, orange and green page)
- for any home-school communication (reading record pages)
- to record their *log-ins and passwords (by popular request!)*



## Important points

- Children need to take their planner to school every day, and bring it home each evening, so that they have it where and when they need it.

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