



SEATON HOUSE SCHOOL

FORM I

WELCOME TO FORM I

Next term your daughter will be moving ‘upstairs’ to join Form I.

The new term starts on **Wednesday 7th September** and the school hours for the girls in Form I are 8.40am – 3.30pm.

Girls may join the ‘Early Birds’ in Senior House from 8.00am and attend After School Club, if parents so wish.

Form Teachers

Mrs Tracy Hamilton
Mrs Sarah Hammond

Teaching Assistants in Junior House

Mrs Bernadette Pearce
Mrs Sam Cooper
Mrs Julie Budgett
Mrs Lorraine Ball
Mrs Laura Fairweather
Miss Lucy Parker

The beginning of each day

The girls in Form I are expected to come upstairs to the classroom unaccompanied. Goodbyes should be said at the front door of the Junior house building. The girls will sort out their own belongings (lunch boxes on the rack downstairs, reading books and reading record books in the classroom, etc) – a sign of their developing independence.

Once your daughter has organised her belongings satisfactorily, she will be encouraged to choose a book from the class book corner and sit quietly at a table. She may choose to look at the book independently or share it with a friend. Alternatively, on occasions other resources may have been put out for use at this

time. All girls should be purposefully engaged in a quiet activity.

Urgent messages for Mrs Hamilton/Mrs Hammond

Brief messages may be delivered by parents at the front door if necessary. Parents wishing to relay non-urgent or more detailed information may either write a message in their daughter's Reading Record book, write a separate note to Mrs Hamilton/Mrs Hammond or arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Reading Record Books

Reading Record books are collected and checked every day and serve as a means of communication between school and home. Any messages or concerns should be written, both by Mrs Hamilton/Mrs Hammond (or other staff) and parents, in the book, which should be signed DAILY by a parent, so that staff in school know that the messages, letters etc. have been received and read.

Registration

All girls should be in the classroom by 8.35am and fully organised by 8.40am. Any girl arriving after 8.40am will have a Late Mark recorded in the Register.

Assembly or the first lesson of the morning

These begin immediately after registration. From the Autumn Term all girls in Form I should have their own Hymn Book for Assembly. These are available from the School Office, priced £5.00. In order to preserve the soft covers, the girls are encouraged to cover their Hymn Books with attractive, strong wrapping paper of their own choice. All Hymn Books must be named.



Equipment

All pupils in Junior House will be provided with any equipment and resources necessary for their use during all lessons (i.e. the school provides pencils, crayons, scissors etc).

If they wish, and this is completely optional, girls may bring to school a colouring book for personal use during wet breaktimes. This should be clearly named.

THE CURRICULUM

In the main, your daughter will now be studying the National Curriculum for Key Stage One. Every day will have timetabled slots for Language and Numeracy lessons, usually of around an hour's duration each. Science will be taught as a separate subject but Humanities subjects (History, Geography and Religious Studies) may well be taught through appropriately chosen topics. As in the past, you may be requested to help your daughter carry out a little research or bring in useful artefacts in connection with her current studies.

French

French will continue to be taught. The aim at this stage is to introduce the girls to a new language in a motivating way, so that they gain sufficient confidence to communicate simple French phrases in everyday situations. The girls follow *La Jolie Ronde* course which concentrates on involving the children in active learning. This is achieved through role play, songs and games. The girls are taught vocabulary appropriate to their age and knowledge and understanding of the world, in a variety of interesting and authentic contexts.

Reading

It is the expectation that, wherever possible, each girl in Form I will read regularly to Mrs Hamilton/Mrs Hammond or a Learning Support Assistant from the appropriate Read Write Inc. book or a reading scheme book. The Read Write Inc. book, once it has been thoroughly explored, will be taken home and read to a parent. In addition, each evening the girls in Form I will also be asked to read a graded Reading Scheme book. When listening to your daughter read, importance is placed on her understanding of the vocabulary and context. Conversations about the text and illustrations and the retelling of stories are extremely valuable activities. You may find that she brings home the same book on more than one occasion and guidance about extension work or an area needing further reinforcement will be noted in the Reading Record book. Sometimes she may bring home ‘flashcards’ rather than a book – playing games with the word cards and learning to recognise the words out of context will help to develop reading confidence and competence. Instead of a Reading Scheme book, the girls will bring home a library book to read over the week – to be returned by the following week. They will also have homework every Friday to consolidate Phonics and Maths work done in class.



Please sign the Reading Record book each evening. If your daughter has been unable to read, for whatever reason, please make a comment to this effect.

Spellings

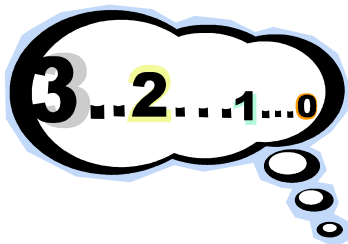
Spelling lists will be given out each week. The words will follow letter / sound patterns and also include some common words that can not easily be sounded out. A spelling test on

these words will be given a few days later. Spelling test sheets will be sent home every week, in order for you to monitor your daughter's progress. Please sign this book every week and revise any words which your daughter may have mis-spelt in the test.

Mental Arithmetic

The emphasis on understanding and 'playing' with numbers through practical activities is invaluable, but needs to be revisited regularly in order to develop competence and confidence to deal with more complex problem solving activities in the future. Anything that can be

done at home relating to number recognition, number bonds (i.e. pairs of numbers that make 10 or 20 and their related subtraction facts), counting on and back, doubling, correct formation and orientation when writing digits etc would be very useful.



Please note that addition and subtraction using 2-digit numbers are no longer tackled in the formulaic and prescriptive way that we were taught. We do not introduce 'vertical' setting out in Form I. It is advisable not to use this method at home as this may confuse your daughter. Multiplication and division are introduced in Form I through the concept of 'groups of' objects and through sharing amounts into equal groups.

Physical Education

The girls will have at least two P.E. lessons each week with both indoor and outdoor activities being included in the provision. The girls are expected to dress and undress by themselves and it would be extremely helpful if your daughter

could practise doing up / undoing buttons, zips, buckles etc as changing time is part of the allocated lesson time. Girls are encouraged to change quickly to maximise use of the lesson time for P.E. activities

Some of the school P.E. bags have exceptionally long drawstrings resulting in the bags dragging on the floor beneath the pegs, creating a dangerous tripping hazard. It would be helpful if parents could shorten excessively long strings, perhaps by tying a strategically placed knot. P.E. bags should be named on the outside with clear WHITE embroidered lettering, positioned so that the name can be easily read even when the bag is closed and hanging on a peg.

Music

The girls enjoy two half-hour Music lessons each week, one of which will focus on singing, music making and musical appreciation. During the other lesson, the girls will learn to play the ocarina and will need to practise at home. Ocarinas will be on sale through the School Office. Please make sure ocarinas are **clearly named** and in school each week for lessons.



Computing

The girls will improve their skills using word processing and programs to support mathematics and will learn about devices controlled through ICT. ICT is integrated into day to day lessons to benefit all individual learning styles.