



Welcome to our new September 2021 Year 3s!

I hope this introductory newsletter finds you and your family well and safe.

I have deliberately waited to send you this welcome letter until we had some kind of guide as to how transition from infant to junior school would look. There have been several changes to what we can and can't do due to Covid over the last few weeks but hopefully the path I am about to set out should be the one that we can stick to therefore avoiding any further confusion.

Firstly, I would like to thank you and welcome you to the EJS family. For some of you this might be your first child at EJS, for others, you may already know us due to having had children here already.

There has been a lot going on behind-the-scenes in relation to transition and it looks very different this year to how it would usually look. Usually we would like to welcome you and your child to EJS to come and visit us and see what we do. Unfortunately, due to guidance from Public Health England (PHE) schools can no longer welcome visitors on site or mix bubbles.

We have however been getting to know your child through discussions with their current teacher in their current school. We have received information sheets from yourselves and from your child's current school detailing your child's needs. All of the children should've taken part in a question and answer session with some of our children and the Lower School teachers and our children are presently working on introduction videos for you and your child showing them how to get to their class, what the class looks like and what life is like at EJS. We will get these to you as soon as possible. Staff will also be completing an introductory video so you know who is who. Your child's new teacher will be ringing you for a personal conversation about your child in the last two weeks of term so that we can introduce ourselves to you and you can chat and discuss any concerns that you may have.

We have tried to imagine some of the questions that you may have asked if you had been able to join us on our usual parent day. We have put these into this newsletter and hope the information we give you will help you prepare you and your child for the move to EJS.

The move from Year 2 to Year 3, from Infant to Junior school, from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 is a major event in any child's life. The way we work at Key Stage 2 is somewhat different to how children work during their infant school career. From Year 3, education is still fun but can be more formal and it may take your child a little while to get used to this. Please do not worry, we will do everything that we can to help your child settle into their new way of working and please be reassured that we have helped many children to be successful during their junior school years.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

What time does school start and end?

- For Year 3 children, school will start at 9.00 prompt on **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND 2021** and they will be the only year group in school that day so as to give them a little time to adjust to their new surroundings without it being too busy.
- All other year groups will join us on **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD 2021**.
- Due to Covid restrictions we still have to have staggered start and end times to the day.
- Year 3 and Year 4 children, Lower School, need to be at the school gate at 9.00 and NOT before. They will then walk across the car park, where all staff will already be parked. They will wash their hands in their designated sanitation area and be greeted by their teacher and support staff member.
- At the end of the day Year 3 and Year 4 children, Lower School, will come to the gate at 3 o'clock and should be collected from there by an adult to walk home.
- Kevin Bell will be at the gate to supervise the safety of our children.

What if I need to tell school something about my child?

- Again, due to Covid we have had to change how we communicate with parents. Due to advice from PHE England is that there should be no visitors including parents on the school site.
- **We are now a paperless and cashless school. All communications and payments need to be electronic.**
- To communicate directly with your child's class teacher you will be able to use your child's individual online learning platform **SEESAW**.
- Should you need to telephone school on **01900 812330** you will hear an answer machine message asking you to leave your number so that staff can ring you back as soon as possible. It helps if you can leave a short message as to your concern about your child or query, so that we can make sure the right person rings you back.
- In emergency situations or during school closures you can also ring, leave a message or text on the school mobile - **07449 44929**
- You will be able to use our Teachers2parents (T2P) service to text and email school on parents@ewanrigg.cumbria.sch.uk School will similarly use this service to text and email you.
- You could also look on our website - <https://www.ewanrigg.cumbria.sch.uk>

- I would strongly advise that you join our school Facebook Page, which is a secure closed site. Search for us on Facebook - [Ewanrigg Junior School Official Facebook Page](#). For security purposes you will then be messaged by me, Yvonne Craig, the Head Teacher to check your link to our school, before being admitted to the page, which is full of photos and information about EJS.
- **PLEASE DO NOT USE FACEBOOK MESSENGER AS A WAY OF COMMUNICATING WITH SCHOOL AS THESE MESSAGES CAN OFTEN BE MISSED.**
- Please only contact staff during school office hours - term-time, Monday to Friday, 9.00- 5.00 and please do not be offended if queries out of these hours are not answered.
- EMERGENCY CONTACT REGARDING COVID CASES OR ISOLATION NEED TO BE ON covid@ewanrigg.cumbria.sch.uk or leave an answer machine message with your number for us to call you back.
- You can come up to the school gate and ring the bell that is at the side of said small gate. This will connect you to the school office who will then be able to deal with your query.

What should my child wear for school?

- Our uniform is very simple, inexpensive and primarily based on colours.
- On non-PE days your child should wear a red jumper, fleece, sweatshirt or cardigan either with or without the school logo.
- The jumpers etc with the school logo can be purchased from West Lakes Embroidery which can be found on Facebook - 01900 817799 - 69, Senhouse Street, <https://www.westlakesembroidery.co.uk> but you can also purchase your child's uniform, without logo, at supermarkets therefore giving you a wide range of prices to choose from.
- Your child should also wear a white polo shirt, with collar, which again can have or not have the logo and can be purchased similarly to the jumpers.
- Trousers, skirts or pinafores should be black - as should shoes, boots or trainers. Shoes and trainers should not have any logo so as to reduce any chance of children comparing how much trainers have cost. You can blame us for you not having to pay a fortune for named trainers!
- In summer children may choose to wear red and white gingham dresses that can be purchased at local supermarkets or three-quarter length black dress shorts or culottes.
- Please do not send your child to school in leggings or jeans.
- Your child, particularly in winter, should bring a coat to school as the weather can change very quickly.
- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHES ARE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAMES OR INITIALS AS STAFF CANNOT SPEND VALUABLE LEARNING TIME SEARCHING FOR NON-IDENTIFIABLE CLOTHES! WE ARE NOT YET QUITE MIND READERS.** This can be done on the inside ticket with permanent marker pen - embroidery name tags or at west lakes

embroidery - your child's initials can be stitched into the item of clothing. Please remember to check regularly as frequent washing can make names unreadable.

What should my child wear for PE?

- On the days that your child does PE they will come to school in their PE kit and stay in it throughout the day.
- This makes life easier for yourselves and for us as we do not lose precious learning time changing uniform and looking for lost items of clothing.
- On PE days, your child should wear a white T-shirt with or without logo, red shorts and during winter your child may like to wear black skins under the shorts or black tracksuit bottoms. Again black trainers with no logo please.
- Any school team PE Kits for matches etc will be provided by school.

What should my child bring to school?

- Due to Covid, we have again had to change what we can and cannot allow our children to bring to school, in order to reduce the chance of transmission.
- All your child needs to bring to school is a bag every day, preferably a backpack or rucksack, their snack, a water bottle and their packed lunch should that be their lunch option.
- All other equipment including pens, pencils, rulers, books etc will be provided by school.
- Your child should not bring toys or balls etc to school
- Each child will be given an individual pencil case, book wallet, and classroom tray for individual use - again saving you a fortune and cutting down the chance of losing items.

What if my child needs medication in school?

- If your child needs to have specific medication in school - such as an inhaler or EpiPen - these will need to be kept safely by the staff. Please ring the school office for a call back so we can arrange for you to drop things off at school.

How do I pay for school lunch?

- EJS is now a cashless school, again a change we had to make due to Covid.
- You can pay for school lunches using the Teachers2parents (T2P) app which is free for you to download.

How do I know what's going on at school?

- Staff endeavour to put photographs on our school Facebook page every day so I strongly advise that you join that as soon as possible.
- We have another app called "OUR SCHOOLS APP" which serves as a calendar for you to look at.
- You will also receive email and text updates and information via Teachers2parents (T2P) and your child's learning online learning platform SEESAW.

Who will be teaching my child?

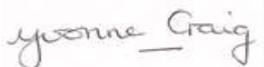
- Year 3 will be taught in Class 3 by Mr Ritson, supported by Mrs Hunton.
- Mrs Chilton is Assistant Head and Leader of Lower school
- Other adults in Lower School are Miss Baker, who supports Mrs Chilton in Class 1 and Miss Shepherd, teacher in Class 2 and Mrs Birkett who supports in Class 2.
- Members of the office staff are Mrs Ditchburn and Mrs Moir
- And I am the Head Teacher, Miss Craig
- You can find photos of us all and my Head Teacher welcome on our website page along with all the other members of staff,

WHAT'S NEXT?

- We are very aware that this is a time of great change for both you and your child, made even more complex by all the Covid rules and regulations, many of which are out of the control of schools.
- Over the next few weeks, we will be sending you updates and videos to keep you informed as to what is happening so please look out for them.
- We will be emailing you with instructions for joining our online learning platform SEESAW so you can connect to your child's teacher and instructions how to pay for lunches.
- I will further update you by email towards the end of August when we are told by the government how school life is to be during the autumn term as none of us can yet predict what that may look like.
- I suggest that you have a good look at our website page and join our Facebook page as soon as possible.

We are all truly looking forward to meeting you and your child and spending the next four years helping your child to "be all you can be." We aim to encourage your child to look, listen, learn, love and laugh every day as we help them through this stage of their educational journey.

Kind regards and stay safe and well,



Yvonne Craig
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Head Teacher

