

Autumn LOWER JUNIORS

September 2026

Welcome to Lower Juniors!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to another year with us at Robert Sandilands! We hope you had a lovely summer and are looking forward to a new term. We thought it would be a good time to fill you in on some of the routines that will be operating in the Lower Juniors this term. As you know, we are here to help your children develop as individuals and to encourage their independence, both socially and educationally. Therefore, many of the routines in Key Stage 2 are geared towards helping them achieve this.

Autumn Term Topic

This term, the children will be learning about 'Kings and Queens'. This is a very exciting topic that explores a range of significant monarchs from 1066 to the present day. We will be taking the children to Hampton Court Palace in November. Additionally, we will be learning about skeletons and digestion in Science. If you have any skills, information or artefacts that might help support our areas of study, please feel free to contact us.

Reading

At Robert Sandilands, we put a huge emphasis on the development and benefit of reading for enjoyment. We strongly encourage all the children to read regularly at home and school, to themselves and to others. Children's reading bands will be assessed soon. All the children in the Lower Juniors will have been given a reading booklet, which is used as a record of their reading at home and in school. This booklet is to last the whole year. We ask that you listen to your child read **at least 4 times a week**. We are running a competition in school between the classes so every child, and every read counts! The reading booklet will be checked regularly. Please ensure that your child's booklet is in school **every day**.

Homework

During the week, the children will be asked to do spelling activities and times tables practise every evening (in total, at least 10 minutes) in their 'Homework Book'. In this book, the children will be given tasks linked with our learning in school. You will see that this looks different to historic spelling homework. As a school, we are now following a new scheme, which teaches spelling through morphology. There will be a letter about the new spelling curriculum to follow.

It is really important that children use this time to practise as this will help consolidate their spelling. Sometimes the spelling task may be a 5 minute session on Morphs, which is an online spelling platform linked to our spelling curriculum. Logins for Morphs can be found in their reading records. All tasks will directly link to the learning taking place in class. There will no longer be a spelling test on a Friday.

School lunches

From Year Three onwards, Universal Free School Meals are no longer available. Therefore, pupil lunches will need to be paid for in advance via Parent Pay, unless you are in receipt of Free School Meals.



Reminders

DRINKS & SNACKS: We encourage the children to have access to water throughout the day to stay well hydrated. Each child should have a named water bottle that contains water only. Water bottles will be kept on the floor under your child's desk.

In KS2, fruit is no longer provided by school as a snack. Please ensure you send your child with a healthy snack to have at break time. Thank you.

PACKED LUNCHES: Although we ask for water only in class, it is fine to put juice or squash in lunch boxes. However, we need to ask you not to give your child any food containing nuts (including nut pastes like Nutella) as we do have allergies in the Lower Junior classes.

NAME TAGS: Please name all your child's clothes, including shoes. Jumpers and cardigans are a particular problem, as the children take them off for art and other activities. We do try and match as many as we can, but you can make our job much easier by naming everything!

PE: The Lower Juniors will have PE on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**, so will need their PE kits on these days. However, it is much easier for everyone if they bring their kit on a Monday and keep it in school all week, so that if extra events occur or plans change, the children do not miss out. The PE kit should be in a named bag that they can hang on their peg, any trainers used outside also need to be put in an appropriate separate bag.

Indoor PE kit: navy and yellow t-shirt and navy shorts.

Outdoor PE kit: Same as above with black or navy coloured trainers and/or Robert Sandilands rugby shirt/hoodie, navy tracksuit bottoms and football socks if required. If your child wears tights, please can you include a pair of socks in the their kit to wear with their trainers.

SWIMMING: Lower Juniors will be going swimming in the Summer Term; more information will be given closer to the time.

UKULELE: As part of the In2Music Project, Year Three will begin ukulele lessons on Friday 18th September.

Meet Your Lower Junior Team!

The following staff are working with your children this coming year in the Lower Juniors:

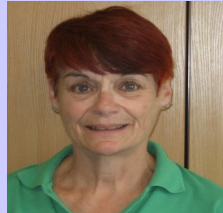
YEAR 3 HYDRA CLASS



Mrs Chloe Blair
Year 3 Class Teacher



Mrs Fiona Coulam
Year 3 Teacher



Mrs Ali Ward
Year 3 Teaching Assistant/
Pegasus Leader



Mrs Taryn Flynn
Year 3 Teaching Assistant



Mrs Sarah Welch
Year 3 Teaching Assistant

YEAR 4 KRAKEN CLASS



Mrs Katie Pullen
Year 4 Class Teacher



Mrs Michelle Fenner
PPA Teacher (Tuesday)



Mrs Debbie Boswell
Year 4 Teaching Assistant

CAN YOU HELP?

We are now able to receive offers of support from parents who are able to come into school and listen to children read. Please see the office or a member of Lower Junior staff if you are able to volunteer. Please note that all school volunteers are now required to have a full DBS check.

We hope this letter has helped with some of the questions you or your child may have at this stage of the term. Thank you in advance for your help and support. We are looking forward to teaching your children over the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

The Lower Junior Team

Reminders

PENCIL CASES:

Your child will not require a pencil case this year. All resources are provided by school.

CLOAKROOM: All the children are given a labelled peg on which to hang their belongings. Their coats, PE kit bags and other belongings should be hung here in the morning. There are shelves outside the classrooms for lunch boxes. We no longer operate a lost property box and request that all the children's belongings are **clearly named** for easy identification.

TRIPS: This term, we will be visiting Hampton Court Palace to learn more about Henry VIII and Tudor life. This trip will be in **November**. More information will be sent out soon with important details and payments information.

COMMUNICATION: If you have an matter that needs to be discussed privately or in detail, please speak to whomever is at the gate, or the office staff and we will arrange a mutually convenient time to get together.

You may also wish to write any comments about homework (or any other matter) in the homework book or reading booklet.

