

UPPER JUNIORS Autumn

September 2026

Welcome back!

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to welcome you all back to school and hope you have had a fabulous summer break. The Upper Junior children have returned to class full of beans and excited to launch into our Autumn Term Topic — War and Peace. The overview is attached to give you a snapshot of the learning that we shall be covering across the curriculum. There is a trip in the pipeline— watch out for further information!

As you can appreciate, the beginning of the day is extremely busy, therefore if you have any messages that you wish your child's class teacher to know, Mrs Bucknell is always at the entrance to school first thing, and will come and tell us immediately. Alternatively, you can leave messages with the Office and we will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet should it be necessary.

Homework

In the Upper Juniors, we strongly believe that a good homework routine not only helps your child practise and master skills, but also teaches them how to manage their time, take responsibility for their learning and belongings and prepare them for the next step when they move on to secondary school. Children will be provided with homework books, which they will need to bring to school daily.

In addition, all children have a TT Rockstars login and should aim to spend ten minutes daily on this. Your child's goal should be to know their tables inside out up to 12 x 12 as soon as possible. (Beyond if they wish to challenge themselves!) They will not reach ARE (Age Related Expectations) without these skills. Your child will also have a Morphs login to aid in spelling.

If your child does have a problem with a piece of homework please return it to school at the earliest opportunity and a member of the team will support them with any misconceptions.

Reading

There is a strong emphasis on fostering a love of reading and books at Robert Sandilands. Regardless of your child's level of reading, they do need to get in the habit of reading their books almost daily - minimum four times a week **and be questioned by and read with adults in your home every week.**

All children, regardless of their reading fluency, will have a colour banded school book. Children are expected to bring their completed reading records to school daily. Every home read gets earns a house point and 'Points mean Prizes!'

Spelling

At Robert Sandilands, we are following a new spelling scheme—Grammarsaurus— which focuses on morphology. A letter introducing this scheme will be sent out soon. We will still be setting short homework tasks for you to work on with your child.

Mobile Phones

As the children are getting older, more and more children have their own mobile phones. These should only be brought to school if a child is travelling a significant distance alone and must be handed to the office staff at the start of the day. A form from the office needs to be completed for this to happen.

PE

All pupils require full PE kit which should be in school every day of the week, including trainers and if wearing tights as a uniform, spare socks.

We have a changing room available to separate boys and girls, therefore all pupils should come to school in proper, full uniform; not their PE kit.

Swimming begins on Tuesday 22nd September.

Each child will need to bring their own swimming kit containing:

- a swimsuit
- a swim hat
- goggles if they wish to wear them
- a towel

Swimming teachers require all children to remove earrings before entering the pool.

Year Six need to be in the pool by 9.15am for their lesson, therefore we ask pupils to arrive ten minutes early on swimming days. This gives us time to register the children and order lunches before we have to leave.

Year Five should arrive at school at the normal time.

We look forward to a fabulous, fun-packed term of learning!

The Upper Junior Team

Reminders

Uniform:

Can we remind you that pupils should not be wearing trainers; nail polish, elaborate hair accessories or any jewellery with the exception of small, stud earrings to school. **Please name all your child's clothes, including shoes.**

Water Bottles:

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**. They may have squash at break and lunch times.

Birthday Treats:

We have a number of pupils with food allergies and many who are unable to eat different ingredients in sweets due to religious reasons. Therefore, if you wish something in to celebrate your child's special day, please consider gifting the class a book to share instead.

Dates for your diary:

22/09/26 - Swimming begins
23/09/26 - Individual pupil photographs

19/10/26 - Special Week
20/10/26 - Parent Consultations 1
21/10/26 - Parent Consultations 2
21/10/26 - Book Fair opens
22/10/26 - End of Term 1 (Normal finish)
23/10/26 - 30/10/26 HALF TERM

2/11/26 - INSET 2
3/11/26 - Pupils back in school
11/11/26 - Year Six Bikeability
12/11/26 - Year Six Bikeability
3/11/26 - INSET 4
4/11/26 - Pupils back in school
20/11/26 - UJ Trip
16/12/26 - Christ dinner and jumper day
18/12/26 - Christmas assembly 11am
School ends 12.15pm

