

Mrs. Butlin's First Grade Class

2018-2019

School email: jbutlin@hilton.k12.ny.us

School phone: 392-1000 ext. 5211

Website: www.MrsButlin.Weebly.com

Dear Families,

Welcome to our first grade classroom! I am so excited to have your child for an adventurous year in first grade. I have to say that every year gets more and more exciting! I can't wait to work with you and your child throughout the school year.

This packet of information is a way for you to understand different routines and polices of our classroom and school. It's very important, so please put it in a safe place. You'll want to refer to it time and time again throughout the year!

SUPPLIES

You have already received a list of supplies to bring on or before the first day of school. If you have any problems providing any of those school supplies, please feel free to contact me and I will help in any way that I can.

During the year, we may begin to run low on a few supplies. I will send home a letter requesting new supplies. Please send the items in ASAP.

ATTENDANCE

Your child's regular and prompt attendance is very important. When your child is sick, please call the health office to report the absence. If your child will be absent due to a family vacation, again, please call the health office. It is not necessary to call me; however, if you are able to send a quick email it is appreciated. When your child returns to school, please send in a written note with the following information:

*Your child's name

*the date/s of absence

*Reason for the absence

[A note is always necessary \(even if you've called the office\).](#)

If for some reason your child comes late to school, you must take him/her to the health office and SIGN IN. Your child will need to bring me a pass from the health office.

TRANSPORTATION

If you are planning on picking your child up from school at the end of the day, you need to send in a note to me in the morning. You may also notify the school nurse before 2:30pm. If I do not have notification that your child is being picked up, I must put him/her on the bus, no matter what the child tells me.

Without notes, they have to go on the bus. If your child needs to take a different bus on any given day, it is your responsibility to contact the nurse, myself and transportation. This way all area's are notified and it will avoid any miscommunication.

MONEY

Occasionally, your child may bring money to school for school breakfast, lunch, snacks, field trips, or a book club order. It is your responsibility to send money in an envelope or a Ziplock bag, clearly labeled with:

- ✓ Your child's name
- ✓ My name
- ✓ What the money is for
- ✓ Total amount

CHOICE TIME/RECESS

During the warmer months, I will take the students outside for recess. Please remember to send your child to school with an extra pair of sneakers if they wear sandals or open-toed shoes. It is a school policy that I cannot allow ANY student to play on the playground without sneakers. Our playground tends to have a breeze so please send a sweatshirt or jacket as the temperatures start to drop. Everyone has the opportunity to participate in recess as long as they are working hard and act appropriately throughout the school day. If a student brings in something from home to play with, make sure that it is appropriate for school and that your child know that THEY are responsible for their own things. I cannot take responsibility for lost or broken items. Please do not send any electronics.

SNACK

We will be having snack every morning. Please send in one item each day (the healthier-the better ☺). Also, please pack your child's snack separate from their lunch as children tend to eat items from their lunch box leaving them with less for lunch. I ask that only water be sent in for snack. Water bottles are welcome, just not juice boxes. I recommend sending your child with a reusable water bottle that they can use throughout the day to stay hydrated. Although there is a water fountain in the classroom, having a water bottle will give your child more water and less germs!

BREAKFAST (OPTIONAL)

The cost of breakfast is \$1.60. If your child decides to buy breakfast in the morning, they must go straight to the cafeteria from the bus. They may eat breakfast in the classroom; however, they must eat in a timely manner.

LUNCH (11:33- 12:03)

The cost of lunch is \$2.65 each day. If a student is buying just milk the cost is .60. Menus will be sent home at the beginning of each month. If your child brings in his or her lunchbox from home, please label it with his/her name.

Bringing lunch: Make sure they can easily open anything you put in their lunch (ex. Rubbermaid containers and individually wrapped snacks). For example, if your child can't open a bag of fruit snacks, you may consider putting them in a Ziploc bag to make it easier. While there will be adults to help, it is always better for your child to be as self-sufficient as possible.

Buying lunch: If your child is buying lunch, be sure they know exactly where you will put their money in their backpack. The best advice I can give you is that if your child is going to buy their lunch, prepaying is a hassle free option for both you and your child. Essentially, you can send in a check made out to the Hilton Food Service. They will credit this amount to your child's name in the computer. Then when your child buys lunch, they simply have to tell the cashier their name. This saves them searching for and keeping track of their money. I highly recommend this option to all of you. This can also be done online at www.mynutrikids.com .

Lastly, if you would like to come in and eat with your child you must sign in at the security desk. I do ask that you not come in to have lunch with your child for the first 6 weeks of school. This gives all of the children the opportunity to develop some independence and make friends while at lunch. Thank you in advance for being understanding about this.

MUSIC (Monday and Wednesday 12:25-1:10)

Our Music teacher is Mrs. D'Amuro (previously Ms. Martella ☺).

ART (Friday 12:25-1:10)

We will be having Art with Mrs. Sears.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Tuesday & Thursday 12:25-1:10)

Our P.E. teacher is Mr. DePrez. Please remember to send in sneakers with your child to P.E. that he/she can put on rather independently if they do not wear them to school.

COMPUTER LAB

We will go to the computer once a week. Day and time TBD.

LIBRARY (Monday A weeks 2:00-2:30)

On library days (every other week), students have the opportunity to check out a new library book. Please make sure to send the book back before the next library day in order to ensure that your child can take out a NEW library book. If students bring back their book early and would like to exchange it for a new book before our next library class they are more than welcome to do so during choice time/recess.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are always a valuable part of our classroom. It is greatly appreciated. If you're interested, I will send home a sheet for you to fill out. It will have on it available times and days of the week to come into our classroom. I will then set up a schedule for volunteering. Here are some of the things I may ask you to do:

- ✓ Make copies
- ✓ Small group work with students
- ✓ Read with a list of children
- ✓ Tracing, cutting or any other preparation for a project

- ✓ Parties
- ✓ Prepare Scholastic Book Orders (can be done from home!)

Please make sure that if you are unable to volunteer for your scheduled time, that you let me know as soon as possible. You can call, send in a note or send a quick email. I understand that things do “pop-up.” You do not need to find another volunteer to replace you! Thanks!

CELEBRATIONS

If you would like to celebrate your child’s birthday with the class, please send me a note or email at least a few days ahead of time. The birthday treat is required to be store bought, this is district policy. Please do not bring in any sharp or large knives (plastic knives are fine) and candles. Also, please keep in mind any supplies that you would need to bring that are necessary to provide the treat- napkins, plates, cups, etc.

Please remember, when your child is considering inviting classmates to birthday parties outside of school, it is understandable that the entire class can’t be invited. To prevent hurt feelings, please mail invitations. I am willing to pass out invitations in school if the entire class is invited, if all girls are invited, or all boys are invited. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me!

*Please see the “Happy Birthday!” letter regarding Birthday Books.

COMMUNICATION

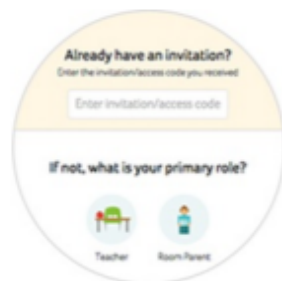
Everyday, your child will bring home his or her red “Wise OWLS” take home folder. This folder is very important. Please check and return this folder to school everyday! Completed work in the back pocket of the folder should be kept at home, as well as any notes or newsletter sent home that day. If you have any notes to send in to school this is a great place to put them for your child to see in the front pocket labeled “Return to School.” This front pocket will also be home to your child’s daily update chart. We refer to this as their “Star Behavior.” Specific information regarding this chart will come home in a few days. The inside plastic sleeves have resources that should be left in to refer to at home on a nightly basis. If we change something in these sleeves during the school year I will let you know. I believe this folder is a valuable communication tool between school and home.

Our classroom also has a website! www.MrsButlin.weebly.com This is a work in progress and will be added to throughout the year. Please take time to become familiar with the different pages and links. There are favorite websites we use in school as well as electronic copies of our newsletters!

Would you like to receive reminder emails and/or text messages about special events? Bloomz is a messaging tool that I use to help share important updates and reminders with families. We will also be using it for party sign-ups and volunteers. You can subscribe by text, email, or using the Bloomz App. All personal information is kept private. I will use this communication tool to remind you about things such book fair, school pictures, field trips, etc.

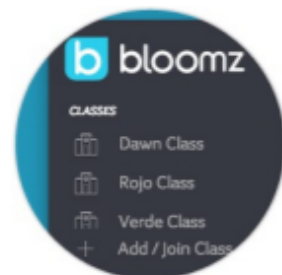
Please join Mrs. Butlin's First Grade class on Bloomz!

Bloomz is a new app that works both on your smartphone as well as on your computer. You will receive quick updates and photos of class activities, be able to access our class calendar, and more. All in a private and secure environment.



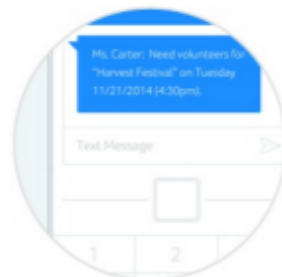
New Bloomz Parent

1. Download the "Bloomz" app from the AppStore/PlayStore and click "Create Account". If browser, go to bloomz.com and click on "Join Bloomz"
2. In the text box, enter **UEPHMW**
3. Create your account



Existing Bloomz Parent

1. Log into your Bloomz account
2. Click "+Add Class/Group" on the left navigation.
3. In the text box, enter **UEPHMW**
4. Click next



... or join using text messaging instead

Text **@UEPHMW** to 1-858-BLOOMZ1 (1-858-256-6691) to receive 1-way text messages from your teacher

Need help? Go to support.bloomz.com or email us at support@bloomz.com

HOMEWORK

Every day, students will be responsible for reading homework. The assignments that I will provide support the learning that is taking place in the classroom. Homework is due the day after it is assigned (unless otherwise noted). I understand that we all have very busy schedules; however, if homework is continuously being handed in late or not at all, your child will have to complete the homework during recess. Please make sure that your child comes to school prepared every day.

Starting in late September, I will be sending independent reading books home in a reading bag. Inside the bag, I will include a "calendar" for you to initial every night after reading. This reading should occur nightly for 15 minutes. Occasionally your child will come home with the same book. It is just as important to REREAD that book again. Remember that this is a time for your child to "show off" his or her new reading strategies or fluency! Students will have additional books from guided reading once groups begin.

Math homework will come home on every Tuesday and Thursday and will be due the following day (starting in the coming weeks).

SCHOLASTIC READING CLUB

Every month, I will be sending home a Scholastic book order. It's a great way to order inexpensive books for your child. Not only does it increase your library at home, but also the library in our classroom as we earn points! If you are interested in purchasing books, please consider ordering online. Ordering online is the most convenient way to use Scholastic Reading Clubs. You create an account, enter class activation code L47T8, fill in your order, pay online and the books will arrive at school. If online ordering isn't possible, you may also fill out the order form and send in a check (NO cash) in an envelope marked "Book Order" along with your child's name and my name. The scholastic book order for each month needs to be placed before the last Friday of the month. Often times, parents will buy gifts for their children through the book order. Please just let me know in advance and we can work out a way so that your child does not see them! Specific information about accessing the website for online ordering will be coming home separately.

I hope this information is helpful! It is of great importance to me to maintain partnership in sharing the education of your child. Communicating with you will help me better meet your child's needs in the classroom. If you ever have any concerns throughout the year, big or small, please contact me and we will work together to solve any problems. What we may see as a small concern, a first grader may perceive a big concern.

If you ever have any questions, comments or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at school @ 392-1000 ext. 5211 or by email @ jbutlin@hilton.k12.ny.us. You can also send in a note with your child!

I look forward to a great year working with your family!

Sincerely,
Janel Butlin