

Year 2 Welcome Letter

September 2022

Dear parents & carers,

Welcome to Year 2. We hope that you have had an enjoyable summer break and are as excited about the new term as we are!

We are very mindful that starting a new school year can be quite daunting for children and adults alike! It is extremely important to us that your children feel comfortable at school, in their new classroom, and with us – their new teachers. Rest assured that your children's wellbeing is our primary concern and that we will be doing our very best help everyone settle in.

Please find below some information which we hope you find useful as the year progresses.

Reading books:

Reading books and diaries will be checked daily and reading books changed if your child has completed and is confident with the book. Please record all reading done at home in the relevant day of the home-school diary. As the children progress through the reading levels, extra comprehension activities will be sent home to accompany each book. These are to be completed by your child at their own pace - there is no expectation that they should be handed in the next day.

Phonics:

Phonics lessons will continue throughout Year 2. Children should bring their Phonics folders into school every day as they will be given a new practice sheet for each Phonics session. These sheets will be completed in class, however you can support your child by reading through each sheet at home to practise the letter pattern. The children will be expected to learn this pattern during the week and then complete a spelling dictation at the end of the week in class.

Common Exception Words:

'Common Exception Words' are everyday words that do not necessarily follow the common phonetic spelling rules children are taught when learning to read. This means that some of the letters and letter combinations make unexpected sounds. By the end of Year 2, it is expected that children are able to read and write the 109 Key Stage 1 Common Exception Words – 45 from Year 1 and 64 from Year 2. A full list of the Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words is attached, and a copy can be found on the Year 2 class page of the school website.

Maths:

This year, children should develop fluency in number bonds to 20 and become confident in number bonds to 100. By the end of Year 2, children are also expected to know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s is introduced in Year 1 and we will use this learning as basis for the multiplication tables. There are lots of apps and games to support your child with number bonds and times table practise at home – the White Rose 1-minute maths app is a great resource which mirrors the activities your children will be familiar with from class <https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/1-minute-maths>

Learning Preview:

Each Friday we will send home a ‘learning preview’ which will include information on what the children will be learning in Maths and English the following week, as well as an overview of the week’s phonics lessons and the spelling patterns to be learned. For maths a link will be provided, at the beginning of every new unit of work, for the White Rose home learning workbooks to support teaching in school. This information will also be available on the Year 2 class page of the school website.

PE:

PE sessions will take place on Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon. PE kits should remain in school throughout the week and children will wear them home on a Thursday afternoon, to be washed and returned to school ready for the following week. **Please** ensure that **all** of your child’s clothing is named as this will help us to return any ‘wandering’ items more quickly!

We are always happy to help with any questions or concerns you may have, so please do not hesitate to ask! The home-school (reading) diaries are checked by a member of staff every morning, so please do use this facility to keep in touch.

Best wishes

Miss Harwood