

Year 2 Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to the start of a new school year! We are really looking forward to the year ahead and the exciting themes we have planned. We hope your child has a truly enjoyable and unforgettable Year 2. We welcome your feedback, so if you need to speak to us then catch us on the door or make an appointment. We look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Themes

We deliver an exciting creative curriculum. Our first theme for this half term, 'A Mystery in Fairy Tale Land', is based around fairy tales. In the first week back, we received a mystery parcel addressed to Prince Charming and Cinderella. We were supposed to be looking after the parcel, but it was stolen the next day and we discovered a crime scene! We have been asked by the Fairy Tale Police (FTP) to help them investigate the crime, solve clues and find out who the culprit is. Which fairy tale character could it be? We await further evidence from the FTP to help us with our investigation.

The Year 2 Team:

Teachers:

- Mrs Tilley
- Miss Wallace

Teaching Assistants:

- Mrs Carrier
- Mr Miles

PPA Team:

- Mrs Grindrod
- Mrs Roebury

PE & Forest School

PE

Our usual PE days are Mondays and Wednesdays but this is flexible so children will need full indoor and outdoor **PE kit in school at all times.**

- Black shorts, white T-shirt,
- Black plimsolls (not black soles please)
- Black tracksuit
- Trainers for outdoor use

Your child's clothes and footwear should be named and in a named drawstring bag.

Long hair for both girls and boys must be tied back with appropriate bobbles or hair bands.

Jewellery is not suitable for school. Children who have pierced ears are permitted to wear a single set of studs. Multiple earrings, hoops or earrings that dangle are not permitted. Earrings need to be removed or taped during PE sessions. To ease this, we suggest that parents book ear piercing appointments for early in the summer holidays so that earrings can be removed for PE when school starts in September.

- **Mondays:** Indoor PE
- **Tuesday:** Forest school (alternative afternoons starting on **Tuesday 16th September**)
- **Wednesday:** Outdoor PE

Forest School

The children will be taking part in Forest School throughout the year, on **alternate Tuesday afternoons** starting on **Tuesday 16th September**. During Forest School sessions children must wear long sleeves and long trousers to protect them from sunburn, sparks from the fire and scratches etc. They will also need a waterproof coat and either wellies or snow boots. We advise your child to wear old clothes so that they can get dirty. All clothes and footwear should be clearly named. On Forest School days, children should come to school wearing their Forest School clothes (please refer to the letter from Katherine Grindrod – Forest School Leader).

Art Aprons

The children will be doing a wide variety of art activities throughout the year. All children in Year 2 will need a painting overall or old shirt to protect their uniform. Please ensure that these are named and send them in at your earliest convenience.

Start and end of the day routines

The children are already coming into Year 2 calmly and sensibly, arranging their belongings on their peg and happily entering the classrooms.

To ensure their safe return to you, we dismiss children one by one at the end of the day. Whilst we appreciate that this is a good time to converse with other parents, it is essential that your child has made eye contact with you before leaving our side. When collecting, try to stand in the same place each time so that your child becomes familiar with your usual meeting place. Please only wave to your child when they reach the front of the line, then wave like fury so that we can see you!

Classroom routines

Class rules

Both the Year 2 classes have classroom rules on display that the children have decided on collectively. These focus on being kind and respectful to each other and trying to achieve their best.

'Reach for the Stars' Zone Board

This is part of our whole school Positive Relationship and Behaviour Policy. Every child begins the day on the 'Sunshine'. When they are spotted doing the right thing, such as following instructions or being kind to others, they are rewarded by moving up to the rocket, and subsequently up to the stars. If they have reached the stars by the end of the day, the children are given a star sticker which they stick onto their collection card - in Year 2 these are stars. Once a child has earned 10 star stickers, they receive a 'Star Voucher' which will be kept safely for them by the class teacher in the 'Star Bank'. Children can then trade their vouchers for items from the 'Star Shop'. Children are encouraged to consider whether they wish to 'spend' or 'save' their vouchers. If a child is struggling to make the right choices, they will be moved to the grey 'Choice Cloud' where they will be reminded of the choices they can make regarding their behaviour. As soon as they make the right choice, they move back to wherever they had already reached on the zone board. If they continue to struggle to make the right choice or find themselves in a 'stormy moment', they will be moved to the Storm Cloud where they will be supported by an adult to return to the sunshine. All Storm Cloud incidents are recorded; if they become cause for concern, we will contact you so that we can work in partnership to support your child with their choices.

Rewards

When children achieve their targets, do something for the very first time or do their very best work they may be put onto 'gold'. They then receive a special mention and a sticker in congratulations assembly which will be held on a Friday afternoon. From each class, an individual child's success is also celebrated. If your child is chosen, this will be communicated to you via email on the Wednesday before the assembly. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

KS1 Congratulations Assemblies are on a Friday at 3pm, starting from Friday 12th September.

Drink and snack

We are a Healthy School which means we promote healthy lifestyles. Fruit is available for all Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 children daily, but all children are also welcome to bring a healthy snack to eat during their mid-morning break. In addition to this we ask that every child bring a refillable sports bottle of water to school daily. They have access to this throughout the day. Milk is also available by order for children in Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2. Please keep all items for lunch in a separate box. **It is essential that all bottles and snack containers are named.** Please note, as we have a number of children and staff with severe allergies, we do not permit nuts, or nut-based snacks, in school; this includes peanut butter and nut-based chocolate spreads. Thank you for your cooperation.

Visits and Activities

Over the course of the year, we will be taking the children on several educational visits designed to complement the themes we will be covering. We will give you further information about these events nearer to the time. Below are the dates we have already booked in:

- *Thursday 27th November: Visit from the History Man (in school)*
- *Thursday 26th February: Trip to the Think Tank Museum in Birmingham*
- *Spring/ Summer term - TBC: Trip to Worcester Cathedral*
- *Friday 26th June: Trip to the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham*

Supporting your child at home

Reading Books – Daily Reading

Your child will have brought home a yellow reading journal and reading book to enjoy at home. Every time you hear your child read, please write a comment in the reading journal (examples of comments can be found inside the journal). When your child has finished reading their book and you need a new one, please write a comment to this effect in their journal. Your child's book will then be changed. At Lyppard Grange Primary School, we have a list of 100 amazing books to read before children leave at the end of Year 6. This list is divided into 15 books per year group, and they are called 'spine books'. **It's a book that adults can read and share with their children!** We expect reading journals to be brought into school every day and have impressed upon the children that they should take responsibility for this themselves. **Reading journals should not be used to communicate any other information.**

Homework

Following a review of the timetable in every year group, a school-wide adaptation is being made to homework. Currently, the setting and reviewing of homework takes between 30 to 60 minutes a week. This homework is then completed inconsistently, with some children putting a lot of time into their work and others not completing it all. Therefore, the decision has been made that the hour currently used for homework would be better spent delivering an additional lesson. There are also two key areas of the curriculum where children really benefit from daily practice, so we feel it is better for parents and carers to really focus on these rather than trying to complete a wider set of homework where these two key aspects can be forgotten. From this September, each week we would like every child to complete the following:

1. **Reading.** Your child should read for 10 minutes or more every day. This reading activity needs to be recorded in your child's reading journal, as this will ensure we can work together to track progress.
2. **Times tables. This will not begin until January in Year 2, when children start being taught times tables.** It comes in two parts. First, your child needs to spend time learning the times table that we have set them. Each child will have a different times table and their learning will be checked through the use of a weekly times table challenge. Second, your child is expected to complete a minimum of 10 minutes of TTRockstars activity over the course of the week. This will be in the form of Garage sessions, which will be set on Friday evenings and needs to be completed by the following Wednesday morning. We will send you further details nearer the time.

E-Safety

Our children are growing up in a digital world and are likely to be spending increasing amounts of time online as they get older. In order to help them remain safe online and understand both the benefits and potential risks of the internet, we do lots of age-appropriate work around e-safety in our computing lessons and within PSHCE. In addition, we send out an e-safety newsletter to parents/carers each month to keep you up to date with online safety risks, issues, advice and guidance related to keeping children safe online. Please take time to read this and where necessary, have any conversations with your children about the content to ensure they are able to enjoy technology safely and age-appropriately and know what to do if they experience

something which worries them online. Please follow this link to see any past newsletters and other useful E-Safety information. <https://www.lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk/online-safety>

Special Educational Needs

As a community school we welcome and provide for all children regardless of their culture, background or special educational needs. If you have any concerns about your child's individual needs, please arrange an appointment to discuss these with us and our school SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator) Mrs Edwards. We ask that you respect every family and their needs by showing your tolerance and acceptance of every child within our school, especially in front of your own children. If you have any concerns about the behaviour or support given to individual children, we would be happy to discuss our policy with you further by appointment.

Year 2 Parent Workshop

More information regarding the teaching of reading, writing and maths will be explained in the Year 2 parent workshop. **This will be held on Thursday 25th September 2025 with a prompt start at 6pm, aiming to be finished no later than 6:45pm.** Please [click here](#) to let us know if you will be attending.

Hopefully this newsletter will help you become familiar with the learning, expectations and activities in Year 2. We hope that your child's year will be extremely successful, fun-filled and enjoyable. We truly appreciate the high levels of support that children receive at home, as it really does help them achieve in class.

Thanks for your support this term,

Fiona Tilley and Rachel Wallace (Class Teachers)
Cathy Carrier and Sam Miles (Teaching Assistants)
Katherine Grindrod and Gemma Roebury (PPA team)