

# 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 please, if you have anything that you need to discuss with us, either catch us on the door or make an appointment. We look forward to working with you throughout the year.

## Themes

All of our teaching is approached through cross curricular themes. 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 the following day we found a crime scene and the contents of the parcel had been stolen! 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. Could it be a troll, Goldilocks or even Little Red Riding Hood? We await further evidence from the FTP to help us with our investigation.

## PE & Forest School

### PE

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

- Outdoor PE Kit: black tracksuit, white t-shirt and suitable outdoor footwear
- Indoor PE Kit: green/black shorts, white t-shirt and black pumps

As one of our PE sessions is outdoors, it is essential they have a tracksuit ready for when the weather starts getting colder. Your child's clothes and footwear should be named and in a bag. Long hair must be tied up for PE, so please ensure your child has a hair bobble for this. They will be asked to remove any earrings when taking part in PE. Should your child be unable to remove these due to them being recently pierced, we ask that you provide a roll of named surgical tape to cover them. If these guidelines are not followed, your child will be unable to take part in the PE lesson.

### Forest School

The children will be doing forest school, throughout the year, on Wednesdays. The children will need to bring in suitable clothes for spending several hours in the outdoors such as: waterproof trousers, a coat and a pair of wellies. All clothing and shoes should be named and in a named bag (see previous forest school letter sent home for further information).

### Uniform

Correct uniform is to be worn at all times, including appropriate footwear. Please make sure that all school uniform is well labelled. The only jewellery permitted are stud earrings and no bracelets/wristbands should be worn either.

### Art Aprons

The children will be doing a wide variety of art activities across this year. In order to protect their uniforms, you may wish to send in a named art apron/old shirt.

### The Year 2 Team:

#### Teachers:

- Mrs Brown
- Mrs Roebury
- Miss Wallace

#### Teaching Assistants:

- Mrs Carrier
- Mr Miles
- Miss Tysoe

#### PPA Team:

- Mrs Grindrod

- **Mondays:** Outdoor PE
- **Wednesdays:** Forest school (alternative mornings and afternoons)
- **Thursdays:** Indoor PE

## **Beginning and End of the day routines**

The children are already entering Year 2 calmly and sensibly, arranging their belongings on their peg and happily bounding into their classrooms; we would like to thank you for your support with this.

We dismiss children one by one, at the end of the day, to ensure their safe return to you. 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!

In order for this to run as smoothly as possible, please let us know the usual home time arrangements for your child so that teachers are aware of the adults collecting. If these arrangements change at any point, it is really important that you let us know in writing or by phone.

## **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 polite to each other, listening 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 a 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 Fridays at 2:45pm.**

### Snack

Children are asked to bring in a healthy snack for break times. This could be a fruit or vegetable snack, a cereal bar or a yogurt, but one item a day is sufficient. No nut-based products are allowed due to allergies amongst children and staff. Please keep all items for lunch in a separate box. If you want to provide birthday treats for your child's class, then please also ensure that these are free from nuts. It is essential that all bottles and containers are named.

## Visits and Activities

Over the course of the year, we have planned several educational visits designed to enrich your child's learning in the themes we will be covering. We will give you further information about these activities nearer to the time. However, below you will find the dates for the ones we have already booked in:

- *Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: Visit from the History Man (in school)*
- *Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January: Trip to the Think Tank Museum in Birmingham*
- *Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Trip to Worcester Cathedral*
- *Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 their 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. Your child should bring both their reading journal and their book to school every day even if they have not finished reading it. We ask that you hear your child read every day; please use the front and back pages of the reading book to support you in supporting your child's reading. Your child will also start bringing a free choice book home every night. This is a story or information book for you to share with your child. This is not matched to their reading ability. They will be encouraged to change this daily. Please remember not to put notes or messages in reading journals as they are not checked daily. Messages and letters must be given to staff on the door in the morning. Thank you.

There is a box in their journal for you or your child to sign each time they read and then a box for any reading comments from across the week, along with an example at the front for how this could be filled in. We expect reading journals to come back into school every day and have impressed upon the children that they should take responsibility for this themselves.

### Homework

The partnership between home and school is extremely important and homework is just one of the ways in which we seek to foster this partnership. Homework is essential in supporting the children's development as independent learners.

Teachers will upload homework to the school website. Please click on 'Homework' which can be found under the 'Children' tab (pictured below). Select your child's year group and select the appropriate week. From here, you can download and print your child's homework. If accessing homework electronically is problematic for you, please speak to your child's class teacher. Each Friday, children will be sent home with their homework book, within which they can do any working out or writing as necessary. Homework is due back in the following Wednesday. By the end of the week, children will take part in a whole class feedback session with their class teacher



### Mental Maths Challenge

Later on in the year, we will start the Mental Maths Challenge. Every week, your child will take part in a mental maths challenge and we ask that you help your child to practise the skill we have challenged them to daily. Children will need to score at least 18/20 on two consecutive challenges in order to move up to the

next level. They will be able to tell you which challenge they are working on.

### **Labelling of belongs**

To reiterate the message, please ensure that all of your child's belonging are **clearly labeled**. This includes all PE kits, forest school clothing, school uniform, coats, hats, scarves, gloves and even socks! It really helps us to make sure that your child's belonging can be returned to them if they are misplaced. Thank you!

### **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 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 with a prompt start at 6pm, aiming to be finished no later than 7pm.** We will send out an invitation with more details on nearer the time.

Hopefully this guide will help you become familiar with the learning, expectations and activities in Year 2. We hope that their 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.

With thanks for your support this term,

Hannah Brown, Gemma Roebury and Rachel Wallace (Class Teachers)  
Cathy Carrier, Sam Miles and Morgan Tysoe (Teaching Assistants)  
Katherine Grindrod (Forest School Teacher, PPA team)