

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to Year 2. We have had a great first week and I have been so pleased with how quickly the children have learnt and followed new routines, and how positive and helpful they have been. Well done to the children for coping so well with the transition. We have all earned a weekend of rest after a tiring full week back!

We will continue to celebrate when the children demonstrate our learning behaviours in school both on a daily basis through stickers and in our weekly celebration assembly on a Friday.

If your child comes home wearing an animal sticker, it is because they have shown an outstanding example of that learning behaviour that day, so please do celebrate with them. A list of the learning behaviours can be found below.

**Learning Behaviours in Year 2**

Risk taker		I am trying something I haven't tried before.
Keeping going		I will try to work things out and look for ways to help myself.
Aiming high		I am trying my best!
Motivated and engaged		I am sitting up, looking and listening.
Taking responsibility		I am always ready for my learning.
Respect		I accept everyone, even if they say something silly or wrong.
Team player		I include people well and work hard to get along with everyone.

On Monday, we will be holding class elections for two school councillors, two eco-warriors and two arts ambassadors. I have already asked the children to let me know if they are interested and am delighted to say that almost every child has put

themselves forward for a role. What fantastic risk takers! They will give a short speech on Monday (I have promised that if they are very nervous about this, we will give them plenty of support) so I'm sure your child will appreciate some help and guidance in preparing for this.

Our breaktime will be at 10.15am and lunchtime at 1pm. Children may have a small sandwich or other savoury item as well as fruit or vegetable for their morning break snack, in a named pot. Children should bring a named water bottle that will be accessible to them throughout the day.

## PE

Year 2 will have PE on Tuesday with Mrs Churchill and on Thursday with Mr Bulbeck. Thank you for sending them in with their PE kits on Monday. Kits will come home on Thursdays to be returned to school on Mondays.

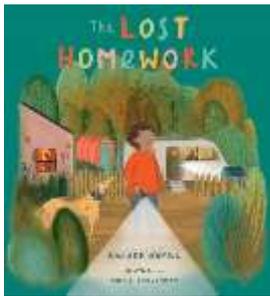
Please ensure that all items are labelled.

## English

Daily phonics sessions will continue, where children will develop their reading and writing at the right level for them. Children will bring home their group storybook that they will have practised reading three times in class to read to you twice more. Once they have read it to you twice, it can be sent back into school. The children should be able to read these storybooks confidently by the time they bring them home, so please do let me know if this doesn't appear to be the case so that we can ensure we tackle any issues straight away. The children will also bring home two further books: firstly, a Read Write Inc. book bag book that they may not have read before, but that they should be able to tackle with minimal help. They should read this book repeatedly as building reading fluency is a vital aspect of the Year 2 reading journey. Secondly, they will bring home a picture book or chapter book that they have chosen for you to read to them for

enjoyment. This can be changed each Wednesday, but if it is a chapter book that they are enjoying but haven't finished they are welcome to keep it for longer. Please send in reading records and book bag books every day: reading records will be checked on a Monday. Each week, children who have five reads recorded will have a raffle ticket put into the pot for a chance of winning a book voucher at the end of term.

There will be a **phonics information evening on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September** where you will have the chance to ask about anything that you are not sure about, but I am always happy to talk to you at any time if you have any questions or observations about your child's reading: just phone in and I will get back to you.



Alongside phonics, the children will encounter many texts on a daily basis, both in reading and writing lessons and in other subjects, as well as just for pleasure. Our first whole class reader this year is *The Lost Homework* by Richard O'Neill, a heart-warming tale set in the traveller community. It is about a young boy who realises that he learns many valuable things at home as well as at school, such as using a map and cooking a meal. I will be asking the children to notice when they learn new skills and facts at home so that they can share these in class, so it may make an interesting conversation for you to have at home as well. We have already shared and enjoyed the story *Yakki and the Parno Gry* by the same author in class.

We will continue to practise spellings on a daily basis; learning spellings supports the children's phonics and vice versa. Please encourage and support your children in using Spelling Frame to practise.

## Maths

We will have a *daily maths session*.

This term, we will:

- practise counting forwards and backwards to 100
- practise reading and writing numbers to 100 in numerals and words.
- secure our understanding of the place value of two digit numbers and work on various ways of partitioning them.
- compare numbers and use the symbols  $<$   $>$   $=$  to write number sentences.
- count forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s
- practise adding and subtracting number bonds to 20
- learn bonds to 100 (tens and ones)
- add and subtract one and two-digit numbers
- recognise and know the value of coins and notes
- use problem-solving and reasoning skills to calculate totals, differences and change when using money, including two-step problems
- recap the basics of multiplication before we cover it in greater depth in spring term

To refresh yourself with the school's calculation policy please click through to:

- Addition [Tatworth-ADDITION.pdf](#)
- Subtraction [Tatworth-SUBTRACTION.pdf](#)
- Multiplication [Tatworth-MULTIPLICATION.pdf](#)
- Division [Tatworth-DIVISION.pdf](#)

On Teams, there will be a maths video and a worksheet set as an Assignment every two weeks. I will be putting up the first video and sheet onto Teams on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September and every two weeks after that on a Monday for the rest of the term. Please watch the video and then complete and hand in the Assignment each time by the following Friday.

## Science

In science this half-term, we will be learning about biology, looking at living things and their habitats. We already have had an interesting lesson where we talked about what it meant to be alive, and had a go at categorising whether things were alive, dead or had never been alive. We all agreed that the slug and the plant were alive, but we had some interesting discussions about whether a sheet of paper and a banana had been alive previously and heard convincing arguments for both sides!



After half-term we will be learning about the properties of different materials.

## History, Geography and RE

This half-term we will be learning about our local area in geography, including through map work. This will lead into us considering how the local area has changed over time in history. We will be planning a walk around the village using maps, and will need helpers for the walk, so look out for further information about that. Also, if you have any local maps, either current or historic, that you would be happy for us to borrow, it would be much appreciated.



In RE with Mrs Billington, we will be learning about religious practices and lifestyle by asking "What is the importance of Torah, the star of David and the celebrations of Shabbat to Jews?"

## Music, DT and Art

In music lessons this half-term, we will be performing through call and response. During the second half-term, we will be practising using the ocarinas.



In DT this half-term, we will be exploring how solid structures are made to be strong and stable, and designing, building and evaluating solid structures of our own. In art, we will be looking closely at birds and their feathers to create bird sculptures.

## PSHE

In the first half-term, our PSHE topic is "My Relationships", and we will be thinking about our feelings, relationships and what makes a good friend. We will also talk about what bullying is and what we can do if we see or experience it. In the second half-term, we will be covering "Valuing Difference," and will be working to recognise and celebrate what makes us each unique and to think about how we can make sure everyone in the class feels included and important. We will also cover relevant PSHE topics as and when any issues arise in class or at playtimes.

Thank you for your continued support: I am very much looking forward to working with you this year.

Mrs Whiffin