



Welcome to Year 2



Dear Parents/Carers

Here are some details to welcome you and your child to Year 2 and explain a few things.

The classrooms look similar to those in year 1 and the children are very familiar with most of the adults. Mr Blackmore is teaching in the Seals class and Miss McCarthy will be teaching the Jellyfish. Our Year 2 Teaching Assistants are Mrs Walker, Mrs Brookes, Miss Alexander and Mrs Green; additional staff will support individual needs where required. Your child will receive daily English and maths lessons as part of our rich and varied curriculum. Our first topic is London and an overview of future topics, themes and subjects can be found on our website.

Phonics

Some children did not achieve the necessary threshold for the phonics screening in Year 1 and will need to take this again in the Summer Term. Nearer the time we will send home an example of the phonics screening and links to websites for additional practise. In the meantime please continue to support your child with regular reading to secure their phonic knowledge.

Reading

We would ask you to continue to ensure that your child has their reading book and reading record with them each day. Please can you also ensure that you make a note in your child's reading record to show what reading they are doing at home. We will be looking for at least four sessions of reading per week at home, and the full list of expectations is included in the reading record.



Spelling

All children will have weekly spellings to learn as they are a key element of meeting the age related expectations for writing and form part of the end of year assessments. This year we are continuing to use the Essential Letters and Sounds - spelling scheme. Your child will have spellings set to match the curriculum which will provide a challenge and enable them to learn the many spelling patterns. These spellings are listed in the Spelling book that your child has been given. Spellings will be tested on Fridays.

Ways to support your children

Parents are always keen to know how they can help their children and the support you provide really does make an enormous difference. Reading **frequently** with your child and asking questions about what they have read has a **massive** effect on the progress that they make and we greatly appreciate the time that you invest in this activity. In Year 2 children may be on one of two main reading systems. They will either bring home phonics phased books or an Accelerated Reader book. We will complete regular assessments on reading throughout the year.

Children will be reminded about their account details for NumBots and Times Table Rockstars (maths) to enable them to develop and continue their learning at home.

After Christmas your child will be given multiplication tables (x2, x5, x10 and x3) to practise and these will be tested each week. In addition if you need any assistance with the methods we use in maths to support your child, please do come and see us.

We would also suggest that to further help and support your child's learning you can use everyday opportunities such as playing board games, visiting interesting places and chatting about what we have done at school.

Visits out of school

We plan to invite visitors into school and undertake trips where possible to enhance the children's learning about topics that we are studying in class. More information about these trips will be provided to you closer to the time.

Clubs

Letters will come home about clubs your child can join throughout the year but please be aware that places are always limited.

Playground routines

You need to stay with your child on the playground until the classroom doors open. Our school day starts at 8.50 a.m. At the end of the day (3.20 p.m.) it is a great help if you stand on the playground and make it clear where you are, so that we can ensure that each of our children has met their parent safely.

The climbing frame and tyres

Please do not let your child go on the equipment before or after school; there is a notice about this by the playground equipment. The children use the climbing frame and tyres in school time and adults ensure that there is a safe number of children on them at any one time. We cannot take responsibility for children who go on it out of school hours.

Snacks

The school is proud to be a healthy eating school. This covers many areas of school life including snacks at playtime and school dinners. Part of this involves the scheme whereby we supply our children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 with free fruit. We try to offer them a choice so that, for example, they can choose a pear if they don't like apples. Some parents prefer to send in a healthy snack with their child (fruit, cheese, crackers or breadsticks) that they are comfortable with and that is completely fine. Please ensure your child has a named drink bottle each day containing water please. In addition, please do not include any items that contain nuts or sesame, in snacks or lunches, as we have children with allergies within the school (thank you for your co-operation and understanding.)

Uniform.



Please could you make sure that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name.

We take part in twice weekly PE sessions so please ensure that your child comes into school dressed in the appropriate P.E kit on their P.E days (Jellyfish Mon and Thur & Seals Wed and Fri).

Do not hesitate to approach us over the year if there is anything you wish to discuss. If we cannot speak to you at that moment we will happily book a time for you to come in to chat things over. We hope this will be another happy and successful year.

Mr Blackmore and Miss McCarthy