



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.

Your child will continue to be based in the Banana Block, the classrooms look very similar to those in Year 1. Mrs Clark will be teaching in the Seals class and Miss McCarthy will be teaching the Jellyfish. Our Year 2 Teaching Assistants are Mrs Walker, Mrs Brookes, Mr Fenn and Mrs Hutchins, 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.

Daily Timing and Routines

08:50: the start of the school day. Doors open, ready for learning to start promptly at 09:00. End of the day: 15:20. All children need to bring a water bottle (no juice or flavoured water), a hooded coat, a backpack and their Reading Record/book bag to school each day. Please ensure that other personal belonging such as toys do not come into school.

Change to the end of the day.

From tomorrow the Seals class will exit from the double doors on the other side of the Banana Block building in the Foundation playground. Jellyfish class will be dismissed from the Jellyfish classroom door.

Sibling Collection

Siblings who attend secondary school can collect your children at the end of the day. If you require a sibling in Year 5 or 6 to collect your child could you please email the office to give written permission for this.

admin@eggbucklandvale.com.

Communication

There is **no Tapestry** in Year 2. Learning is now recorded in books and other methods of communication need to be used. Staff are always available on the door in the morning before school and again at the end of the school day. Further meeting times can also be arranged for longer or more personal conversations.

Any photos of special events, sporting achievements or to share a photo of taking home Jiggles the Jellyfish or --- the Seal can be emailed to each of the class teachers or to the school office admin@eggbucklandvale.com

Reading

Our whole school approach to reading involves an expectation for parents/carers to read with their children at least 4 times a week. This needs to be recorded in their reading record books so children can work towards achieving a reading reward certificate. Reading record books get checked on a Monday. Some children will continue to read the ELS Phonics books and others will move onto the Accelerated Reading Program. This program involves a short comprehension quiz when your child has confidently completed a book and allows them to move up through the levels at their individual pace.

Spelling

All children will have weekly spellings to learn as they are a key element of meeting the age-related expectations and support your child's progress. We have two groups for spelling; one group follows the Essential Letters and Sounds phonics program and the other follows the Essential Letters and Sounds spelling scheme. Both groups are taught their focus spelling rule during the week and along with practising selected words at home they will be tested each week on a Friday. These spellings are listed in the Spelling book that your child will be given soon.

Phonics

You will be aware if your child did not achieve the necessary threshold for the phonics screening in Year 1. They will continue to have daily phonics lessons each morning and will then need to take the phonics screening 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.

Maths

After the October half term, we will begin to send home maths homework. This will involve the practising of functional skills, beginning with number bonds and moving on to times table practise. Short quizzes will be used to assess your child's progress each week on a Wednesday. More information will be given closer to the time. Children have a personal account for both NumBots and Times Table Rockstars to enable them to develop and continue their maths learning at home. These are available via the individual websites or by downloading the app. You will find your child's login inside the cover of their Reading Record Books.

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. 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. Last year we visited the National Marine Aquarium, The Shire Horse Centre and Knead Pizza – 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.

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 Thurs & Seals Wed and Fri). The old school fleeces are no longer part of the school PE uniform. For the safety of your child we ask that they do not wear jewellery, including watches on PE days.

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.

Miss McCarthy and Mrs Clark