

# Class 2 Newsletter

Autumn 1 2020

## Dear Parents

**We wish you the warmest welcome back, we are very much looking forward to our year ahead together. The children have been an absolute credit to you all and have settled into the new routines extremely well.**

**In Year 2 the children are taught by Mrs Potts Monday- Wednesday and Mrs Wray Thursday and Friday. Mrs Harrison will support class 2 on Monday-Wednesday mornings and Mrs Wibberley will support class 2 on Tuesday afternoons and Fridays.**

**Mrs Wibberley will cover Mrs Potts' PPA time for the last lesson on a Tuesday afternoon (RE) and Mrs Wray's PPA for the first session on a Friday morning (PE with Sport's Development staff).**

Our opening topics and learning this academic year have a very strong PSHE and wellbeing focus as we reintegrate the children back into school. We are also placing a strong emphasis on classroom behaviour, attitude to learning and on increasing concentration and focus in the classroom.

We are also currently in a period of assessment as we ascertain where the children are up to and where we need to pitch our learning. This happens every year, but obviously, has more importance this year due to the school closures. Children are being informally assessed in reading, writing, phonics and maths. Please do not worry about your child, about where they are up to or what they missed in school last year. Every school in the country is in the same position and across all year groups. Our first priority is helping the children to settle back into school routines and assist them in feeling safe and happy back in a school environment. Our next priority is to meet the children where they are and help

continue their learning journeys from that point.

## ENGLISH

The whole school are following a recovery curriculum unit based around the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. The unit has strong English, PSHE, Art and Citizenship links. We are also linking it to Geography by investigating our place within the world and to Science by learning about our amazing bodies.

As the half term continues, English will be split into phonics and spelling, reading and writing. The children will have some daily phonics input followed by a reading or writing based English session. We will use a focus text for our English learning which will usually span 2 weeks. We will begin to incorporate some of the Write Stuff techniques slowly through the term as their phonics skills become embedded again.

## Phonics

As the children had a big interruption to their Year One journey we are currently assessing their phonics abilities on our Read Write Inc scheme. Phonics lessons and interventions will then be planned for accordingly. We will also be asking for your help at home as we will be sending some short phonics tasks as homework through the term. The children will be assessed late in the Autumn term and will complete a phonics screening test as they would've done had they been in school in June of Year One.

## Reading

The whole curriculum in Year Two is geared around the children accessing activities with greater independence. This therefore means they are expected to read instructions, questions, signs, text on the walls, on worksheets, in textbooks etc multiple times per day; thus constantly practising reading for a purpose.

This year we are also going to be doing whole class guided reading sessions as part of our English lessons.

As we have had such a long time out of school we are in the process of reassessing the children's reading abilities and levels. We are hoping to have these assessments completed within the first 2 weeks of term. Mrs Wibberley will read individually and assess the children's reading and then provide them with a book for home and one to read independently at school (this will be kept on their tables).

Once the children have been issued with a book and a reading record they can start to record their home reading in these. Please ensure reading records are in school on a Tuesday when they will be checked. At least ten minutes of reading each evening would be a good target. There is a section in the reading record for the children to write about a book they have read, during the week. Children could comment on what they liked, disliked, what the story reminded them of, what they thought of the author's style etc.

### **Home Reading Books**

Home reading books can be changed each morning as required from Monday – Thursday and we will be training the children up to take responsibility for this themselves. On Friday books can't be changed as Covid regulations state that books should be quarantined for 72 hours before entering another household. Any books returned to school Mon-Thurs will go in a 'books returned box' and only returned to the shelves on a Monday morning, therefore giving us the required 72 hours+.

Unfortunately, at this moment in time we will not have the capacity to read individually with the children or invite parents/Grandparents in to listen to readers. Hopefully this won't be for too long!

However, as you can appreciate, it is vital that the children read as much as possible outside of school. This does not have to be the book sent home. If you are reading your own books/magazines etc, please let us know in the reading record book how you are getting on.

As always, thank you for your continued support with this.

### **Spellings at Home**

This year, as a school, we have invested in the 'spelling shed' website and resources. We will send a letter separately about this in due course.

For now, we are testing the children on the common exception words from year 1 as this should give us a 'benchmark' as to where we can start. Spellings will be given weekly on a Friday and also tested the following Friday from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

As much as we can, we intend to include the phonics sounds and spellings within our English plans too so that the phonic or spelling patterns become embedded quickly.

### **MATHS**

Our work in Maths this half term will focus on place value and ordering numbers, counting on and back in 10s from any number to 100, addition and subtraction, money and fractions. We have been chanting in 2s, 5s and 10s and have already started learning our times tables: We have been using the BBC supermovers

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/supermovers/times-table-collection/z4vv6v4>

resources, please feel free to log on and have some fun! Once again a separate letter will come out to you regarding times tables once our initial few weeks' learning have been undertaken.

In the Autumn term our 'Quick Mental Maths' and 'Mad Minutes' will focus on:

- Recall all number bonds to and within 10 off by heart and use these to reason with and calculate bonds to and within 20.
- All doubles and halves from double 1 to double 20 / half of 2 to half of 40

## SCIENCE

During science (Thursday afternoons) we will be looking at materials and investigating the book 'Traction man is here.' Through this we will investigate man-made and natural materials we will look at the properties and investigate the correct materials for certain jobs. We will be looking at how objects and materials can be changed (twisting, stretching etc). Please talk to your children about materials around the house and the outside environment.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs Wibberely will teach RE for the first half term during Mrs Potts' PPA. This half term we will be learning a bout why The Bible is such a special book.

## PE

From next week PE will be on a Wednesday and Friday until half term. **\*Please note the change\***

Children should come dressed ready for outdoor PE lessons on Wednesdays and Fridays from week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. Government guidelines remain that PE should be taught outdoors wherever possible. We will endeavour to deliver PE whatever the weather so please ensure your child brings a fully waterproof coat to school on these days. It may be, on particularly inclement days that

we have to make the decision that it is not safe to do PE outside due to the playground surface being unsafe. In this event, please support us in our decision and be assured that your child will do some classroom based PE where possible e.g. Joe Wicks Hiit sessions or Cosmic kids yoga.

## BEHAVIOUR AND REWARDS

We do expect a lot of children in Year Two and you may feel the jump from Year One to be quite a significant one. Although our expectations are high, we know the children will rise to them and thrive in Year Two. As part of our PSHE learning we have discussed these expectations and also the rewards which the children will accrue. The children will still receive team points for good learning or good behaviour. In Year Two the children can also earn golden time minutes as a class throughout the week. They will do this by all following instructions first time, showing good team work, concentrating during learning time etc. The minutes the children earn during the week will be totalled ready for Golden Time on a Friday afternoon.

We are currently feeding Art, Music, Geography and computing into our 'Here We Are' topic. Further information about the learning in these areas will be available in due course.

## How you can help at home

At the moment, we are focussing on the basics and on re-establishing routines. Please help us by ensuring your child is getting plenty of sleep as school will probably feel exhausting for them after such a long time at home. Please read daily with your child (even if only for 10 minutes) as this will have a huge impact on progress.

Please endeavour to help your child to learn and practise their spellings and phonic patterns as and when appropriate.

Please help your child with their mental maths by counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and talk about the related times tables facts as and when appropriate. You could also practise number bonds to 10, 20 and 100.

### **Covid Regulations and routines**

Hand washing and sanitising is extremely important and is built into our daily routines across school, please support us with this by encouraging your child to develop good hand washing routines at home too.

As coughs and colds will inevitably appear this term, please train your child up in blowing their own noses, binning tissues and then washing hands. Thank you, it will help such a lot if these routines are reiterated at home as well as school.

Please maintain social distancing at drop off and pick up. Our School is working extremely hard to operate within year group bubbles, please respect this outside of school hours to help to keep our community safe.

### **Finally....**

Thank you for all of your help and support during these tricky and unprecedented times. Please be assured that your child's happiness at school is our priority. If you need to speak to us about your child's welfare or learning, please make a telephone appointment via the school office.

Kind regards

**Mrs. Potts and Mrs. Wray**