



*As the roots spread so the tree grows*

Welcome to Year Two

We hope you have had a relaxing, fun-filled summer holiday and are ready for the beginning of an exciting year in school.

### **Staff in Year Two -**

Miss K Grierson (group teacher, team leader and deputy head) and Mrs R Rietdyk (teaching assistant and lunchtime supervisor)

2DW - Mrs J Wallin (class teacher and team leader) and Mrs A Day (class teacher) and Miss A Polkinghorne (teaching assistant and lunchtime supervisor)

2VA - Mrs V Alston (class teacher) and Mrs J Gaddes (teaching assistant and lunchtime supervisor)

2AP - Miss A Parsons (class teacher) and Mrs S Howard (teaching assistant and lunchtime supervisor)

**Home reading books** - The majority of the children will begin in Year Two by reading the same colour band as they were on at the end of Year One however we constantly assess the children and will change their colour when appropriate. Your child will read to an adult in class at least twice a week.

Listening to your child read is an essential part of their homework. Just ten minutes every day will be of great benefit to them. Please ensure you write a short comment in the yellow comments book.

**Spellings** - we will be assessing spellings next week and then the children will be given individual weekly spellings to learn. We suggest that they spend a short amount of time each day working on them at home; writing on the sheet and practising in other ways. You can even go over them on the way to school in the morning!

**Comprehension/maths homework** - the children will also be given a weekly comprehension and maths task to suit their ability. We would be grateful if you could check that they complete these and give them any help that they need.

**Sharing presentations** - As part of speaking and listening in the English curriculum, the children will be required to give a short sharing presentation to their class. There will be a notice in your child's cloakroom to inform you when it is your child's turn and your child should also know as it will be displayed and discussed in the classroom. Of course if your child has some exciting news to tell or something to show from a weekend away, we will be happy to allow them some extra time.

Sharing presentation sessions will operate group by group on a weekly basis this term. Children will be encouraged to talk for up to three minutes about any subject they wish, although we would like you to encourage them to prepare it beforehand, eg talk about an interesting book, a favourite outing they have been on or something that really interests them. If they wish, a prepared powerpoint could be brought in on a memory stick, however this is not an expectation!

**P.E.**-It is important that children have a full P.E. kit which includes plimsolls/trainers that fit. Please note that although we do have Alwyn P.E. T-shirts available, children are allowed to wear any sensible sports shorts and T-shirts.

Please do ensure your child has a full NAMED P.E. kit, with plimsolls/trainers in school every day all term. We do have P.E. coaching sessions and all children are expected to wear a P.E. kit in all P.E. sessions due to safety.

**Water bottles** - Please make sure that your child has a named water bottle in school every day. Filtered water is available should a refill be necessary.

**Helping out** - We have already had several parents/carers volunteering their time to come in and work with the children. This is really beneficial for all the children and we thank you for offering your help. **We do need you, so please volunteer if you have the time!**

In Year 2 we have learning activities in the morning from 9.00am - 9.30am and would appreciate adult help during this time to hear children read. Afternoon volunteers are also appreciated. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you are available to help.

**Independence** - In Year Two, children are encouraged to choose their own reading books and they can do this during the morning session. We hope to increase the children's independence skills in many ways so that they are ready to make the transition to junior school at the end of the year.

**Communication** - Our door is always open and we look forward to working in partnership with you. As you may appreciate it can be tricky to discuss issues with you at the beginning of the day, however things are more flexible at the end of the day and short meetings after school can be arranged if necessary. Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher should you have any queries regarding your child in school.

In order for you to hear about all the different things we do in school, we will send out text messages and letters and there will be notifications updated on the class notice boards. Also, remember to check the school website.

We look forward to working with you over the year,

Miss Grierson Mrs Wallin Mrs Day Mrs Alston Miss Parsons