



As the roots spread so the tree grows

Welcome to Year Two

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

The Year 2 classes and team are -

2GP - Miss K Grierson (class teacher, team leader and deputy head), Mrs S Palmer (class teacher) and Mrs R Rietdyk (teaching assistant and lunchtime supervisor)

2DW - Mrs J Wallin (class teacher and team leader), Mrs A Day (class teacher) and Mrs L Duncan (teaching assistant and lunchtime supervisor)

2VA - Mrs V Alston (class teacher) and Mrs E Macey (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 Year Two reading the same colour band as they were on at the end of Year One. We constantly assess the children and we will change their reading colour when it is appropriate. Your child will read to an adult in school at least once a week.

Listening to your child read and talking about the book is an essential part of their homework. Just ten minutes every day will be of great benefit to their progress and enjoyment. Please write a short, encouraging comment in the yellow comments book to record your home reading.

Spellings - We will assess spellings next week and 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! It can also be helpful to practise writing them in a sentence; remembering full stops and capital letters.

Homework - The children will also be given a weekly comprehension and maths activity to complete at home. We would be grateful if you could check that they complete these and give them any help that they may need. Occasionally we might ask the children to complete some topic based research or activity.

Sharing presentations - As part of 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. PE sessions take place indoors and outdoors so please provide your child with tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt (not hoodies) for the cooler weather.

Please do ensure your child has a full NAMED P.E. kit in school every day, not just on PE days. Due to health and safety reasons children may not be able to participate if they do not have the appropriate footwear and clothing.

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.

Communication - Our door is always open and we look forward to working in partnership with you. It may be too busy at the beginning of the day to discuss issues in depth, however 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 there will be notifications updated on the class notice boards and school website. We plan to trial a paper-free system so look out for emailed letters.

We look forward to working with your children and you over the year,

The Year 2 Team