

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful start to Year 2. The children have enjoyed the magic of a dragon visiting, as well as seeing their friends in assembly again and have shown great engagement in their learning! I have been really impressed with how well all the children have settled into the routines and expectations of our classroom. Here is some key information about Year 2 that I hope will be helpful.

Reading

Your child has been given a school reading record and two reading books to take home. One book will match their current book band colour (which will be noted in their reading record) as well as a 'book of choice', which they can take home to share with you. It is not necessary that your child reads this book to you; you could read it together, or you could read it to them. This means the children have the opportunity to be exposed to a wider variety of books, vocabulary and plot, which will help them to develop a true love of reading. As discussed in the new 'reading framework,' the number of times a child reads/is read to has a major impact on their vocabulary and their opportunities in education and life. So, we encourage our children to read every day, to give them all the best chance of success. A link to a 'Top Tips for Supporting Reading' will be sent out to parents.

When you read with your child at home, please note a comment in their reading record, so we can keep track of this (a few pages each night is perfect.) In school, the children are encouraged to read regularly and understand that when they complete a book, they can independently change it in the reading corner. At the front and back of the reading record, there are two information sheets. One provides the standards and expectations for the end of Year 2 and the other gives ideas and suggested questions you could ask to support your child's comprehension. To further support you with helping your child at home you will receive a text link to the KS1 common exception words. Please help your child practise reading these words as much as possible, as this will increase their fluency.

Please note, we may sometimes ask children to reread their books. This is to help develop fluency and understanding. This will also sometimes be part of your child preparing to read part of their favourite book to the class during 'Marvellous Me.'

Homework/Unhomework

Homework will be given out on a Thursdays. Please ensure your child's homework folder is returned by the following Wednesday. The homework will usually involve maths or literacy work to support and consolidate the learning undertaken in class. There sometimes may also be additional homework to support your child in making the best progress. Occasionally there may be 'un-homework', which is a project style task. There will always be more time for these tasks to allow the children more freedom to be creative.

You can also help support your child's learning at home by practising the following basic skills: learning by heart:

- number bonds to 10, 20 and 100
- 2x, 3x, 5x and 10x tables
- doubles and halves
- odd and even number

Please see separate letter regarding our whole school 'Number Club'.

Spellings and Grammar

Your child will be taught strategies and rules for spellings and will also take part in grammar activities. We will have weekly spelling quizzes and your child will be expected to practise these spellings at home, with a list of spellings sent each week. Further information regarding this will be sent out later in the term.

Key Stage 1 Assessments

At the end of Year 2 children will be formally assessed in Maths, Writing, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Reading. These assessments are likely to take place in the first half of the Summer Term. The end of year assessment will be based on both formal assessments, and a teacher assessment based on the work that the children complete throughout the year. The children will complete practice papers prior to the test so that they are familiar with the format. We call the tests 'Big Quizzes' and try and make them as relaxed as possible for the children. There is nothing specific you need to do at home other than reading regularly, completing homework and practising basic maths skills. We ask for your support in ensuring this is a stress-free time for the children.

PE

PE will be on a Tuesday with Mrs Annis and for these sessions, your child will need a full PE kit. Please make sure your child's kit is clearly labelled and includes footwear suitable for outdoor and indoor activities (trainers are preferable). It is essential your child has a full PE kit in school. Children may wear a tracksuit in the winter months. Jewellery should not be worn to school, apart from one pair of stud ear rings. If your child wears ear rings to school then they must not be worn for PE and should be removed before the lesson, or preferably not worn on PE days.

Please note that sometimes PE days may be changed to fit around other subjects, events and classes.

Art

Mrs Breakwell will be teaching art on Friday afternoons. Please provide your child with a named, large old t-shirt for art lessons. These will be kept in school.

Birthdays

Please remember birthdays are 'treat free' at school and we kindly ask you not to send in cakes or sweets etc. children are, however, allowed to dress in their home clothes on their birthday.

Packed Lunches

As part of a healthy school, please remember that no sweets or chocolate bars are allowed. A portion of fruit or vegetable will be available in school daily for snack time. Snacks may be brought in from home, but fruit or vegetables only please.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A NAMED WATER BOTTLE IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY. THESE WILL BE SENT HOME DAILY.

Staffing

We are very fortunate to have Miss Thorley as our TA in Year Two Monday to Friday Mornings, Mrs Elcocks in the afternoons and Mrs Stewart also working with us on Thursday mornings. On a Tuesday morning, following PE with Mrs Annis, Mrs Hazelton will be teaching music. On a Friday, Mrs Hall will be teaching RE and Mrs Breakwell will be teaching Art.

Curriculum Overview

This term our main topics are 'Fire Fire' and 'It's Cold Outside!' Our science topics this term are 'materials' and 'animals'. We will hopefully have a history day this half term linked to the Great Fire of London. You are able to view a full overview of the Year Two curriculum for 2021-2022 on our class webpage. Keep checking the webpage regularly for suggested resources and updates which will be posted on the Home Learning and Autumn, Spring and Summer Term pages.

General Reminders

As the weather gets cooler, please make sure that your child has a suitable coat in school with them and that it is clearly labelled.

If you have any questions after reading this letter or throughout the year, please do not hesitate to email me on saumeer@holyredeemer.worcs.sch.uk, or see me at the end of the school day. Alternatively, you can telephone school and leave a message.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Aumeer