

## Year 2 Curriculum Newsletter -Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to you all. I hope you and your children have all had a great summer break and are well rested and ready to take on some exciting challenges this year. I know I am! I am aware that for many parents and children this is an anxious time. The year 2 team and myself are committed and excited to support the children's transition back into the 'new normal' school life and we are so excited to help them learn and grow during the course of the year. The curriculum is jam-packed, fun, challenging and exciting; I hope the children will enjoy this year immensely.

The year 2 team this year will comprise of Mrs James as our class TA, Mrs Sahota as a 1:1, Mrs Dyer as an additional TA a few days a week, Mrs Simmons covering the class on a Wednesday morning and myself Miss Pretious. So, if you have any questions throughout the forthcoming weeks please feel free to contact me via email or with a note in the children's contact books.

Throughout this year, reading will be my priority as it is fundamental to learning and the children's progress throughout year 2, therefore reading books will be checked and changed every Tuesday and Friday. As the year progresses this may become more regular but due to Covid we are trying to keep the books as hygienic and safe to handle as possible. The children will bring their reading books home on Friday and they will then be changed again on Tuesday.

Due to its success, the school based 'Rainbow Reading Challenge' will continue this year. This is to try and read a minimum of 5 times a week (but daily is always ideal) with an adult for 10 to 15 minutes. I am also supplying you with comprehension question marks to aid in helping the children understand how the book as this is crucial to developing their reading skills.

There are certificates towards a free book of their choosing by way of incentive and I hope you will support your child in this. Children love to read to an adult and the benefits in terms of improvement in their reading ability will be immense by the end of the year. To support your child's reading and spelling fluency, phonics will continue to be taught on a daily basis throughout year 2. The children will also be required to sit the Phonics screen check during the autumn term and so some of their home learning will be phonics based and there will be a large emphasis on Phonics throughout the school year.

Homework will be set on a weekly basis every Monday. Children will have until the following Monday to complete the pieces of Maths, English and Spelling Contract homework included. Spelling tests will be held every Monday to assess the children's understanding and learning of the previous weeks spelling word list. Spellings will be a mix of phonic based word patterns and high frequency words. Homework is always related to concepts that have been introduced and covered in class and should be a

means of embedding, assessing and challenging your child's understanding. However, should your child have any difficulty, please encourage them to tell me about any problems during the week and I will happily spend time with them again to clarify their understanding. The first week of the children's homework will be sent home on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> September.

In English this term we will be diving into a range of picture books by renowned authors such as Julia Donaldson and Anthony Brown as our writing stimuli. We will focus on embedding basic punctuation, using connectives to start sentences and conjunctions to extend them; in addition to introducing and using higher level punctuation and language. We will continue to encourage children to write in a joined cursive script to ensure they are confident and independent writers by the end of the year. Some of the homework they receive will reflect upon these key skills too!

In Maths, we have lots of new concepts to learn and expand upon. We will begin by consolidating our existing understanding of place value; addition and subtraction; multiplication and division; and focus on different visual and written methods to achieve this. In class, children will benefit from a range of practical resources to support and extend their understanding of counting, the number system and maths concepts in general.

Science this term is all about everyday materials and will involve lots of practical and fun experiments. History involves learning about homes and houses both now and in the past and will include lots of new vocabulary for children to become familiar with. In Art we will be honing the children's sketching and observation skills before moving onto collage techniques. RE will focus on Islam and understanding their cultures and practices. In computing we will be looking at Emails and digital cameras and understanding how to become a photographer who takes and edits their photos using online programmes. PSHE will focus on new beginnings, belonging and helping children to recognise and deal with positive and negative emotions.

Also, for your information, the children will have PE twice a week, once on a Monday (Indoor PE) and once on a Wednesday (Outdoor PE). Some lessons will be outside so it is important that your children have appropriate PE kit that is suitable for most weathers - navy / black jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt! Come rain or shine we do go outside, therefore please ensure during these two terms the children have appropriate outdoor clothing. The children will also be bringing their PE kits home each Friday to be washed and ready for the next week. This is to ensure that we are keeping our learning environments as clean as possible.

Next week your child will be given the Seesaw logins containing the QR code which you will need to set up this year's Seesaw account. This was such a successful means of celebrating children's work last year and I do hope you will download Seesaw ASAP to truly engage and enjoy your children's learning.

Finally, I am so excited for the year ahead and I cannot wait to get to see the children grow in their skills and knowledge this year. I have had an incredible first day with them and they have been superb! Thank you for your support and I look forward to having an incredible year together!

Many thanks,  
Miss Pretious and the Year 2 Team.