

Dear parent / guardian,

We would like to welcome you and your child to Class 2. We are excited to welcome old and new faces to our class community and we are looking forward to working with you and your child over the next year. Your child will be working with two teachers throughout the week – Mrs Shaw Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Rose Wednesday afternoon through to Friday. The teaching assistants supporting the children across the week are Ms Wheelan, Mrs Norton and Mrs Evans. The morning lessons will consist of year one and two only, with the afternoon lessons including year one, two and three.

Over the next few weeks you will be provided with various login details for the online platforms we have for you to access, to enable you to support and consolidate your child's learning at home too. Please help your child get familiar with how to log on and navigate the sites and support them in their activities where necessary. They don't have to be able to do it all on their own. Logins will also be stuck into the front cover of their reading diaries.

By the end of next week your child will come home with a levelled reading book which they will also have the opportunity to read at school with either the teachers, teaching assistants or one of our fabulous volunteers each week. The children will receive dojos for reading regularly at home too so please support your child in accessing their book at least three times per week at home to ensure they become a fluent reader and understand what they are reading. More information on this is in the front of their reading diaries.

The phonics programme we use is called Monster Phonics. This scheme is in line with all other schools in the Staffordshire schools MAT. It is a colour coded programme and aims to support the children by visually recognising the sounds through their colour coding system and corresponding actions. Children in both year one and year two will get a levelled Monster phonics reading book. **Year 1** focuses on teaching the 44 phonemes, grapheme-phoneme correspondences, and blending sounds to read and spell words. **Year 2** focuses on spelling alternative graphemes, learning complex spelling rules, and reading suffixes and multi-syllable words. These books will be changed regularly and we do move through the programme at pace which is why it is important to read regularly at home to enable your child to practise and consolidate the sounds taught in school.

To further foster the children's love of reading, the children will also get an opportunity to take home a reading for pleasure book. This is not levelled and will be picked by the children themselves from our fantastic reading cabin. They may or may not be able to read the book they bring home, but it is an opportunity for the children to have a book to be enjoyed and shared with the people at home. They will have the chance to change this book regularly.

The children have two PE sessions per week. One session will be on a **Monday** afternoon and another session will be on a **Thursday** afternoon – please send the children into school wearing their PE kit for both days.

Throughout the week the children will be learning spellings linked to their phonic work or spelling rule of the week. The children will have spellings sent home each week for them to practise and learn with you, ready for a spelling check every Friday morning.

As some of you may already know, our class pet is a leopard gecko called Curly! He will mostly be found in his moss box or under his log during the day. He does sometimes appear to say hello to the children, especially when he's out prowling around or hunting for the locusts and mealworms. We have learnt a lot about him since he arrived a three years ago and I'm sure the year two and three children will tell our new year ones all about him. We do sometimes take him out of his vivarium to have a closer look and a gentle stroke if the children want to. We ensure hands are washed before and after touching him.

If you ever have a question or concern please don't hesitate to ask. If you cannot speak to us at the beginning or end of the day please email the school office and we'll arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss.

We look forward to working with and supporting you and your child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Shaw and Mrs Rose