



Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 2! The children have made a great start and settled in well to Year 2 and, although we know that some of them have commented on the lack of 'toys' in their new classroom, they have made a very positive transition from Year 1. During this year we will try to make the curriculum as active as possible but this is a real year of change for them as we strive to prepare them for both their KS1 SATS next May and then their move to Juniors.

### **Staff**

In Year 2, the children will be taught by Mrs Hankinson and Mrs Turner each day, with additional support from Mrs Daniels in the afternoons. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons Mrs Turner will be taking the class.

### **PE**

The children will have PE lessons on a Thursday and Friday we would be grateful if all items in the PE kit is labelled with your child's name, thank you. If your child has earrings, please ensure they have taken their earrings out on those days or supply plasters or tape for us to cover them up.

### **Water Bottles**

Please send your child with a named water bottle each day - the children are often keen to drink during the day, especially after playtime, lunchtime and PE lessons.

### **Homework**

We really appreciate you helping your child with his/her homework. Homework will come home on a Thursday night and we would like it to come back into school by the following Tuesday or sooner. The homework this year will take the form of a Written Arithmetic book. We would be grateful if you only complete the sections that we indicate. Children may also have a short literacy task to reinforce grammar or comprehension work being taught in class. If you have any questions about the homework please come and ask.

## **Reading**

We want the children to build a love of reading and hope that your sessions together at home will be pleasurable for both you and your child. Please try to read with your child for around 10 minutes every day if possible, even if this means reading the same book on more than one day. Reading a book more than once is extremely helpful at this stage in their development as repetition is useful for reinforcing word recognition. Following the second reading of a book, it is useful to spend time talking about the text and its characters as this undoubtedly helps develop an understanding of the structure of stories. If your child struggles with any of the words please encourage them to use their phonic skills to sound out the word and to look at the pictures for any clues. Your child's book will be changed on the days written in the front of the Reading Record provided the book has been read at home. For this reason we would ask that you please sign the Reading Record every time you hear your child read.

## **Library**

Each child will also bring home a library book for you to read and enjoy with them. Library books will be issued every Friday so we do ask that all books are returned by the following Friday so that your child can choose a new one each week.

## **Phonics**

This year the children will bring spellings home to learn. This will consist of approximately 10 words sent home on a Thursday to learn for a test the following Tuesday. The list of words is often made up of two parts. The first few will be words associated with the spelling rule we are learning about or it may be that we ask children to learn the rules so that they can apply to any given word. The second part of the list will be made up of common exception words which are ones that are included on the statutory lists of words children must learn.

## **Patch the Bear**

Another home writing activity we have in Year 2 is 'Adventures with Patch the Bear'. Just as a child was chosen each week in Year 1 to bring Hedwig home and write about things they did together, this year one child will be chosen to take Patch home on a Friday for four days. We will be very grateful if you help your child write about the things they do together each day in the book.

Finally, thank you for your continued support and please feel free to pop in school if you have any questions.

Mrs Dawn Hankinson