

January 2019

Year 2 2019 Spring Term – Mrs Dunn and Mr Noyce

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring term which will be full of new learning as well as revisiting and extending previous work. This term the topic title of 'Long ago and far away' gives an overall theme to the history, geography, science and written recording, as well as being a focus for art and design. A range of activities across the different curriculum areas, including workshops, will give the children opportunities to experience learning in different ways.

Morning routines

We are pleased that Year 2 children come into school from the playground managing their own belongings, and putting their own possessions in the correct places in the classroom. As before, any messages about changes to the normal pick-up arrangements and other matters should be written on the year 2 clipboard in the lobby by the office. You can also contact year 2 staff directly or via the office if you have any queries.

Reading and Reading help

As children progress through Year 2 our expectations for their reading develop too. We are expecting children to read a greater volume and range of texts independently and be able to talk about the text, showing their understanding of the content, how it is written and why. This term we will return to Monday, Wednesday and Fridays as our class book change days. However, in any four day weeks, we change books on the Tuesday and Thursday only.

Whenever possible please hear your child read at home at least three times a week, signing and dating the reading record book. Please check their understanding and accuracy by asking questions about what they read and how it is written. Year 2 do a library session every fortnight on a Wednesday, with children encouraged to take a fiction and non fiction book home. The list of our library exchange dates is in your homework information pack and on display in class. Children are able to bring their books back into school anytime, and put the books in their classroom trays until it is our slot for library exchange.

Phonics, Handwriting, Spelling

The teaching and practice of phonics, letter blends and graphemes in their own spelling and writing continues through targeted group work and whole class sessions. Using the correct pencil grip, letter size and formation matters so please check this whenever your child writes at home - including completing their homework which should always be done in pencil please!

Some children may need to do additional handwriting practice as homework. Spelling and grammar work is taken directly from the year 2 work in the national curriculum. This term, spellings are part of the weekly homework with all children having a set of spellings to learn each week for testing in class.

Behaviour Management and Rewards

In September, the children worked together to write a class code of conduct to enable everyone to learn effectively. This is referred to regularly, reminding them of agreed and expected behaviours in school and class, enabling everyone to learn effectively. Children who make a significant personal effort choose special stickers for their own Year 2 sticker book. House points are awarded for significant effort or work. Inappropriate or distracting behaviour that prevents the child or others from focusing on their learning results in our school system of "names on the board" which in turn can result in a child losing part of their playtime. If

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there is a recurring issue with behaviour we will, of course, be in contact with parents as soon as possible to discuss any actions needed.

The class teddies are given out from a Monday to a Friday, on a rota basis, partly as a reward, partly as an incentive. The class teddies then have the weekend in school to recover! No diary record is required.

Homework

This term the children have spelling practice and reading homework each week, with a small maths challenge as well as weekend reading.

Homework is given out on a Thursday to be returned by the following Tuesday. The children earn stickers for completing and returning homework and the work set is an integral part of the class work, often used in subsequent lessons. Please do your best to ensure the children complete the work and bring it back into school on the correct day. If any homework becomes a problem please let us know, we are very reasonable adults and recognise that sometimes special family circumstances mean people run out of time.

In year 2 we encourage children to take more responsibility for completing and returning their own homework, if you have any issues please let us know.

Targets

Learning objectives for each work session are shared with the children, to enable them to check their progress. Overall targets to support individual work and progress in Maths and Literacy are shared with the children. We review and update targets as a result of work checks, pupil and teacher talks. Successes and new targets as appropriate are recorded on individual pieces of work.

General information

Water/Fruit/Milk

All children need a water bottle in school. Water bottles can be refilled from the special water coolers in school. Children in Year 2 are encouraged to have the fruit or vegetable provided by the national Fruit and Vegetable scheme. Mini bottles of cold milk can be ordered for break time – please contact the office to sort this.

Clothing and belongings

In the Spring term, we go out to play or can be doing some classwork outside in all weathers. It is important that all children have a coat or rain jacket in school every day so that they can join in with all activities. Children's trays in class are for school work and equipment. Please do not allow your child to bring precious or valuable items to school.

Please check regularly that all your child's belongings; clothing, bags and lunchboxes are still clearly named. Named items that go astray are more easily reunited with their owners. Any clothing lives on their peg when not in use. Packed lunch boxes, which must be named, go on the bottom shelf of the trolley in the corridor.

PE/Multisport

PE sessions this term are Mondays 2-2.45pm and Friday 9-10am. PE/Games is either inside or outdoors, depending on the activity. Your child needs their full PE kit in school on these days. Jogging bottoms (rather than leggings) and hoodies over shorts and PE shirts with trainers are ideal for outdoor PE sessions. If your child wears tights please ensure that they have socks for their trainers, or remind them to keep their tights on! As before, please ensure all items of PE clothing, especially tracksuit tops and bottoms, and socks for winter etc are clearly named.

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Headteacher: Miss S Vittle

Adult Helpers

We really appreciate the ongoing parental support this year it makes a huge difference to the overall learning. We are fortunate that at Ropley not only do we have interested parents but also helpful adults from the village who go through our DBS system to work with us. Adult helpers could be parents, grandparents, au-pairs. All adult helpers in school must now have a DBS check, and if driving, fully comprehensive insurance over the dates of the visit checked by the office. If you think you might be able to help out in school please see Mrs Burr in the school office who will arrange for an online DBS check. One-off offers of help as well as more regular help is also valued.

Mr Noyce and I hope this information is helpful we are already enjoying working with the children this term. If you have any concerns, or your child is unhappy for any reason, please pop in before or after school for a quick chat, or send a note in either via your child or the office. If you wish you can email Mrs Burr in the office and she will forward any messages. If you feel that you would like more than a quick chat then arrange a time to speak to us at length, don't wait until a small issue has grown into something larger.

We look forward to a successful term working with your child.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Dunn and Mr Noyce
Class Teachers

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