



Fortnightly Newsletter



22nd September 2023

Welcome to Year 2 and your first of many fortnightly newsletters – this and future newsletters (the next one will be on 6th October) can be found on my class page of the school website. It was lovely to see so many of you at our 'Meet and Greet' gathering on Wednesday. Hopefully you were able to find this meeting useful. For those of you who were unable to attend, the power point presentation can be found on my class page of the school website. This and future newsletters can also be found there along with other useful information and photographs of your children once we have all permission slips returned for photos. If I do not have a returned permission slip for this academic year for your child, I will not include them in the photo gallery.

I cannot believe how busy we have been! It has been a great start to the term and all your children have settled into new routines beautifully. They should feel exceptionally proud of themselves as they have worked hard to settle in and do the right thing all the time. Every child in my class now has a special job (they may have told you about this) Class jobs are changed regularly every half term which means that over the school year, each child will experience up to six different roles of responsibility.

By now, your child should have their new school diary for this year with a label on the front cover displaying their home reading book change day and their Purple Mash login details. (See below for further information about reading) Please feel free to fill in the pages inside the diary that require information or signatures. I have talked to the children about the 'prayer' pages and explained that these are private to them unless they choose to share them with me or others. On occasions, we may write a prayer at school, but the children may add to them at home if they wish to.

Our main driver topic for the whole term is 'Movers and Shakers' It is history based and focuses on significant people both past and present.

Your child will soon own a homework book with a range of activities related to this topic. All homework is optional but we are always happy to share any work completed on a Friday morning when the book can be brought into school. Alongside this, art, geography, science, design and technology, music, IT and P.E. will be taught as half termly units.

In P.E. over the last few Fridays, we have enjoyed learning some ball skills with Josh. This session will be outside every week. As the weather turns colder, the children may need a warm hoody for this lesson and long jogging bottoms or leggings.

It would be useful if you could send an old, oversized shirt or t-shirt into school for painting and craft sessions. The shirt would remain in school all year and returned next July! A name inside the shirt would also be very helpful. These can be sent in at any point – I do have a few aprons in the classroom but not enough for everyone.

Maths:

In maths over the last couple of weeks we have spent some time learning how to set out work properly in our maths books now that we are in Year 2! The children have also completed a range of activities involving number tracks and writing numerals as words. We have now started our unit of work on place value, and this will develop over the next few weeks.

English:

The children have enjoyed writing about themselves and their holiday adventures recently. We have also spent time focusing on letter formation and handwriting in our Year 2 writing books, taking care to keep our letters within the guidelines of the page. We are now enjoying our first 'Talk for Writing' unit text – 'The Story of Pirate Tom'. So far, the children have internalised the text, added actions to help with this, created a story map and have written sentences that begin in different ways. They are really enjoying the text and we will continue to develop the unit over the coming weeks.

Reading and Spelling:

Please aim to read with your child at least three times a week and sign it in the diary pages of their planner. I am quite happy for children to record their own home reading into their diary under your supervision if this is easier. I will be starting to check diaries every Friday starting on Friday 22nd September where I will award stickers and take care tokens as a reward for regular reading. I am trying to gauge an appropriate number of weekly books to give your child based on how keen they are to read! If books need changing in between book change days, your child will need to let me know and I can organise an extra book.

All Year 2 children were given their first list of weekly spellings or phonic related words to learn at home this week. This can be found in the spelling pages of your child's diary. If your child is now through their phonic screening and are on the spelling programme, you will also be provided with a master copy of all lists (and Year 2 key words) for this half term with an explanation of how this will work. These can also be found on my class page of the school website. Spelling lists are sent home weekly and each list will be tested in school on the following Thursday. Children will work on their words every day in school but additional support at home is very beneficial and much appreciated. It normally takes a couple of weeks to fully get into a routine but the children need their diary in school every Thursday so that new lists can be placed onto the spelling pages. This keeps them all in one place throughout the year.

Additional Information:

- Show and tell began today and this will continue every Friday. All children will get their turn, but this will be by invitation. I have spoken to my class about how this will work – all will be explained when their invite is drawn out of the hat!
- This year, Moonbeam the bear (cousin of Sunbeam) is looking forward to spending a weekend with each child over the year. If your child is chosen as 'Star of the Week' they will bring Moonbeam home with them on a Friday. A book is provided to write about the adventures that your child gets up to with the bear. Once Moonbeam is returned to school on the following Monday, your child will be given the opportunity to share their experience with the rest of the class. This is a great opportunity for your child to gain confidence by speaking in front of an audience.
- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Tuesday sessions and an outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos (once I have updated permission) and updates.

That's it for now! I hope you have a relaxing weekend!

Mrs Gilbey

