

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm pleased to welcome all of the children and yourselves to Year 2. The children have already made a great start this week and the year 2 team are very impressed with their efforts. We have an exciting year planned with some great learning ahead of us.

Staff working in year 2 this year are: Sharon Hall, Jayne Corner and Chris Bennett. Sara Mitchell will be covering PPA every Thursday afternoon. We also have Liam Dove joining us as a student teacher and he will be with us until December.

Our topic this term is **"Food Glorious Food"** and as always we will be linking this focus across the curriculum where possible. During this topic the children will be:

- Finding out about where food comes from
- Learning about why a healthy, balanced diet is important to us and what it looks like
- Thinking about foods from other cultures
- (And most importantly) getting to make/sample lots of delicious foods

English: We have already started to develop the use of diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and are beginning to apply these to our work whilst always adhering to the best Shire Oak handwriting practice. Please see the attached document for more information on this and how you can help your child at home. We will work on securing our sentence structure with the basics first (capital letters, finger spaces and full stops) so that we *always* use them correctly. We will then develop these further through the use of added punctuation (question marks, exclamation marks and commas in lists), connectives to make compound sentences and adjectives to add greater depth. Our initial text focus is narratives. We have already started to enjoy listening to some 'Traditional Tales' and these will be our focus over the next few weeks. We will be discussing their structure, characters and commonalities and will be working towards writing our own version of Jack and the Beanstalk. This will be followed by a look at 'Traditional Fables'. Our topic will provide lots of further opportunities for writing. This half term the children will use recipe books to help them understand and follow instructions and will then use this knowledge to write their own set of instructions to make a sandwich.

Spelling: Our spelling work will include consolidating and building on the sounds and words we have already learnt in previous years and moving on to looking at the year 2 spelling rules. To reinforce this learning the children will have a weekly spelling test based upon the year 2 spelling rules which they will practice throughout the week. In addition to practicing in school every day it would be helpful if the children can practice these at home too. And so, with that in mind, children will be sent home with a spelling list to practice (every Monday) in preparation for a test which will take place on the Friday. I am also sending home a list of common exception words associated with year 1 and year 2 (see attached sheet) these are words that children are expected to know by the end of KS1 so, whilst we will look at them in school on a regular basis, it would be great if you could look at these with your child at home too.

Maths: In Maths we will continue to work daily on our Passport targets to secure basic facts and skills. To achieve each target, the children have to say or write their answers in 30 seconds so it's really helpful to practice each target regularly at home. Please ask if your child needs an updated copy of his or her current Passport targets. We will continue to use the Numicon scheme to support us in our Maths. Throughout this term we will be working on place value, addition and subtraction, money and multiplication and division. Problem solving and reasoning will continue to be an important part of our maths, when children are encouraged to apply their knowledge and skills and to persevere when they are stuck. In year 2 we learn our 10X, 2X and 5X tables and how to count in 3's. We will begin with our 10X tables after the half term break.

In **Science** we will be looking at animals, including humans. We will be finding out about the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival. We will also be looking at what it means to be healthy; the importance of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food and hygiene. We will also be carrying out a range of scientific investigations linked to our topic.

In **Geography** we will begin to look at seasonal and daily weather patterns (continuing throughout the year), which will encourage the children to become more aware of their environment. We will be focussing on locational knowledge as we name, locate and identify characteristics of the world's seven continents and five oceans.

In **Computing**, alongside safety and developing general computer skills, we shall practise logging on to different programmes on the school system and following basic instructions.

In **R.E** we will be focussing on our Year 2 Christian value of 'LOVE' throughout the year. We will be exploring what it means to belong, including belonging to different organisations and faiths. We will also be finding out about religious stories and how food is used in celebrations.

In **PSHCE** our topics include 'new beginnings'. We will also be thinking about our school principles; 'Be kind, Be safe, Be your best'.

In **Art** we will be looking at art from around the world and linking artist's disciplines to children's own work using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space.

In **DT** we will be following instructions to make some of our favourite foods and the children will design and create a fruit smoothie. We have the added benefit of the school garden that the children will be able to tend to and harvest from for some more wonderful recipes to sample!

The focus for **P.E.** is multi-skills, games and dance. **P.E. will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.** Please make sure your child has PE kit in school. We will aim to have PE outdoors as often as possible this term so joggers would be useful. As always, please make sure that everything is labelled and placed in a named bag. We prefer kit to stay at school for the full half term. It can be washed in the half term holiday!

Trips and visitors - We are hoping to arrange a trip to the local shops.

Water Bottles - It is very helpful if you can provide a named water bottle for your child. These are refilled every morning and can go home at the weekend for washing.

Milk - If you want your child to have milk, please make sure you log onto "Cool Milk Limited", if you didn't register last year, the office can give you more details.

How you can help? Regular reading with your child is still an essential skill in Year 2. Listening to your child read at least three times a week for 10 minutes will be of real benefit to your child's learning. Staff in year 2 also aim to listen to every child read their reading book at least once a week.

Reading books and reading records need to be in school every day and will be changed when we know your child has finished reading their current one. Please date and sign your child's reading record so that we know they have read their home reading books.

You will receive a separate homework leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home. Please remember that the most important homework you can do is reading together regularly, handwriting practice, practising phonics and spellings and helping children to learn facts for their Maths Passport targets.

We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well. Feel free to arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

Thank you, we look forward to working with you and your child this year, do ask if you have any queries throughout the term.

The Year 2 team.