

Thursday 9th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Aruvi Aru class!

We hope that you and your child had an enjoyable summer holiday and we would like to welcome you all back to the new school year. We've had a great first few days together in class and we are looking forward to a fun year of learning where the children will demonstrate their developing skills in increasingly independent ways as the oldest children in Key Stage 1.

Our general topic this term is the history, geography and science led 'Going on a Journey' (including learning about the history of transport, about working with maps and about materials and their uses) and you will receive details soon of the half-term's homework. This will consist of a topic task, some maths activities, spelling and reading. Across the term, we will be reading a variety of class books together and we will also be using the picture book, 'Journey' by Aaron Becker to inspire our work.

Alongside our daily writing and maths sessions, we will also prioritise our reading and spelling progress including through daily phonics sessions. We will initially be concentrating on phase 4 and 5 phonics and in October, all Y2 children will take part in the national screening check. We suggest that Year 2 children **read to an adult four to five times every week for about ten minutes each time**. This might be a book from home, the local library, from the school reading scheme or from our school library. Children will read with staff in class every week and will normally change their reading scheme books with staff every week to bring home. We will also have a library session every week when children will choose books to bring home. All children should therefore have **book bags** (if you would like a Shire Oak one, these are available to buy from reception) which should be brought into school and taken home each day so that all children can regularly practise these skills.

I will teach the class across all subjects throughout the week and year, with the exception of Thursday afternoon when **Mrs Maver** will teach Year 2 whilst I am preparing lessons, making resources and assessing progress. Throughout the week the children will also benefit from the support and experience of **Miss Corner**.

Where we can and where it will best help the children to learn, we will take advantage of our school grounds to learn outdoors and there will also be opportunities for trips locally and further afield later in the term. **Our P.E. days in school this year will be Monday and Friday** for which your child will need a plain white T-shirt, dark shorts and trainers. Please send these into school at the start of term and they can stay in school until the end of term. In colder, wetter weather we will aim to still enjoy P.E. outdoors where possible and so children will be able to wear tracksuits as necessary. Everything should be clearly marked with your child's name and kept in a bag on your child's peg throughout the half-term. Please ensure for P.E. that hair is tied back and earrings are removed before school.

Children should also bring a named water bottle to school every day, already filled with fresh water.

Day	Please bring:
Monday	Book bag, P.E. kit and water bottle.
Tuesday	Water bottle and book bag
Wednesday	Water bottle and book bag
Thursday	Water bottle and book bag
Friday	Book bag, P.E. kit and water bottle.

Finally, please get in touch with me either directly in the playground or through the school office if you have any worries or concerns. It is very important that we work together to help your child to enjoy school, work hard, learn well and to show their very best behaviour throughout the school year.

Yours faithfully,
Ian Martin