



The Firs

Lower School



Dear Year 2 parents,

8th September, 2017

The children seem to have settled well into year 2 and it has been lovely to meet many of you this week. We know some of you are doing this already (so thank you) but when the initial transition period is over it would be great if you could leave the children at the gate and they could walk to the classroom on their own or with a friend. Also, encouraging your child to be more independent and organised would really help them: putting belongings in the right place, collecting belongings, helping to tidy up, packing their bags, remembering messages and instructions, etc. First thing in the morning is a very busy time for us but if you have any queries or information to share we would be happy to talk to you after school one day.

Here are a few points that you might be wondering about.

Reading – The children can read at home whichever day they like and which suits your personal schedule. We encourage them to read several times a week, little and often. Whatever ability your child is we like them to read to an adult to develop higher level comprehension skills, widen vocabulary and practise using expression. Books will be changed on Wednesdays when the reading record has been signed by an adult. The children will need to take it out of their book bag that morning to hand in. Please let us know if your child is not regularly bringing home reading books. We endeavour to hear children read as often as is possible. If any parent is interested in hearing readers one day a week until 9:20 then please let us know so we can arrange a regular session with a few parents helping on the same day.

RWI – The children are progressing through the RWI programme which takes place during the literacy lesson. In addition, all the children also have three spelling sessions and a handwriting session each week.

Spelling - The RWI spelling programme for year 2 starts next week. We will initially be working on pre-programme activities and spellings will not be tested. Once we have moved onto the main programme the children will receive spellings to practise at home and be tested on in school. Some children will take part in an individualised spelling programme on the computers called Lexia. If your child is part of this group you will be contacted so that their spelling journey can continue at home too. One of the new requirements is that the children are able to spell the year 1 and 2 common exception words. We will be testing them first on the year 1 words and we will send home a highlighted sheet to show how well they did (green means they knew it). In the meantime we would like you to practise any words not yet highlighted. In class we use the LSCWC method (Look – stare at the word for a few seconds; Say – read it out loud; Cover – hide the word from yourself; Write – write it down somewhere; Check – see if you got parts of it wrong or whether it is correct). We will also be practising these spellings in class. When they know the words, practise using them in written sentences with punctuation and adding WOW words eg. sparkly, happily, marched. The children will be re-tested every half term.

Numeracy – each block we do focuses on different topics. Most lessons are preceded by counting activities and you could help by trying some of these:

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- Counting forwards and backwards in tens, twos, fives and threes.
- Counting in tens starting on any number eg 3, 13, 23, 33, 43 53.
- Finding numbers one more and one less.
- Identifying odd and even numbers.
- Doubling and halving.
- Adding and subtracting with numbers up to 30.
- Number bonds to 10, 20, 100 eg, 6 and 4, 8 and 2; 17 and 3, 15 and 5; 60 and 40, 10 and 90.
- Partitioning 2 digit numbers – 32 (how many tens and how many ones?)
- Names of 2D and 3D shapes.
- Counting coins and giving change.
- Telling the time.
- Practise measuring.

P.E. – Currently Beech class do P.E. on Mondays and Fridays and Cedar class do P.E on Mondays and Tuesdays. The children need a green Firs t-shirt as well as black shorts. Plimsolls or trainers can be worn for P.E. lessons. Kit will come home every half term holiday for a wash and this is also a good opportunity to check sizes. If your child has not yet brought their kit could they please do so as soon as possible. Forest schools reappears in the summer, you will receive a letter about this, nearer the time.

Art/D.T. – You will soon be receiving a letter asking for boxes for our D.T. project – thank you in advance! They will be turned into emergency vehicles shortly. Please could you check that your child has a named art shirt in school for messier tasks.

Water bottles – Children should have a named water bottle in school each day filled only with fresh water.

Labelling – Please ensure that all your child’s clothing and belongings are named so that any lost items can be returned promptly.

Learning logs – Tasks are sent out on Fridays, if your child does not have their learning log please ask them to check whether they have left it behind. Please could all books be returned by the following Wednesday so that work can be marked and new tasks given in time.

Home/ school communication book (Fish book!) – This doubles up as our reading record in which you can comment on and sign off the children’s reading sessions in the daily boxes each week on the left hand page. Any reading done at the weekend could also be written in Friday’s box. The right hand page will be for the children to record the spelling pattern they are working on and what the title of their homework is for you to follow up in the learning log. There is also a space on that page for you to communicate with the class teacher.

Just a reminder – In line with our ‘Healthy Schools’ policy, we celebrate the children’s birthdays with a song and a sticker, rather than sweets and cakes. We also encourage children to bring fruit and vegetable snacks for break time and healthy lunchboxes; we would appreciate your co-operation with this – thanks.

If you have any other queries that we have not addressed, please come and ask the class teachers – we will be very happy to help.

Best wishes,

The Year 2 team.