

Dear Parents,

Welcome to class 2. We hope you had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for the start of year 1.

During Key Stage 1, Classes 2 and 3 are all taught the same topics which have been linked by the teachers to the National Curriculum. The teachers are working closely together to ensure progression and age appropriate objectives.



During the first half term we will be learning 'All about Me'. This is a great topic for getting to know each other, linking very well with the start of year 1. The children will think about themselves and their families. We will create our own self-portraits as well as making our faces using clay. During this topic we will also do some work about emotions and feelings. History and geography will also link because we will talk about our family's history and different places we have visited around the world.

After half term our topic will be 'Commotion in the Ocean'. We will be diving into the world's seas and oceans, learning about life under the sea, as well as exploring the features of the seaside. The subjects such as Art, DT and Music will link throughout both topics.

Within computing, the children will learn to use a range of programmes on both the I-pads and laptops. They will look at how to stay safe on the internet as well as beginning to learn how to write and de-bug simple programmes.



Our science topic this term is 'Animals and humans'. The children will explore the human body, naming and labelling different parts of the body as well as the senses. They will also look at and compare a range of common animals such as fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. We are also extremely lucky because after half term we will be receiving some eggs that we will be looking after until they hatch into baby chicks! This will be a fantastic experience for the children because they should be able to see them hatch and will have the opportunity to help look after them.



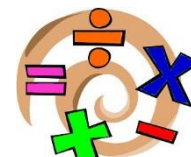
During RE this term we will be looking at the question, 'Why are some places special?'. We will be talking about places that are special to us as well as places that are special to other people including people from different religions.



As in class 1, PE is taught on a Tuesday by Mr Irish. However please can the children have their PE kits in school all the time. This term the children will also swim every Thursday so please ensure that the children have their swimming kits with them. If you would like to take your child's PE kit home to wash within the term, please feel free to do so at the weekends.



In Mathematics the children will be working on objectives appropriate for their level, working in groups to secure their knowledge and understanding in number and place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, measurement, geometry (shapes and position). The children will also take part in 'Moon Maths' sessions each morning which focuses on mental maths and recall of number facts.



In Literacy this term the children will be making information pages all about themselves and will be looking at the story of 'The Rainbow Fish' before creating their own version of the story. We will also look at the poetry book 'Commotion in the Ocean' and make our own poems about different sea creatures. Throughout the year we will be doing a lot of work to build their confidence in performing and speaking in front of their peers and in small groups.

Spelling, grammar and punctuation are also key elements of the English curriculum in KS1.

The teaching of spelling is supported through daily phonics teaching. In class 2 the children have a weekly spelling test that will link to the sounds covered during phonics teaching. As part of the curriculum, the children in year 1 also have an additional bank of words that they will gradually learn to read and then spell so that they can use these words in their writing. This list can be found in the back of their home learning book. If you would like to support your child with this at home then please begin by helping them to read the words before moving on to helping them spell the words. Most of these words are what we call 'Tricky Words' because they do not follow the usual spelling patterns. For example, 'the' cannot be sounded in the same way as 'dog'. Therefore they are words that require quite a lot of practice to spell.



Home Learning- Will be sent home every Wednesday and must be back in to be marked by the following Tuesday. There is a sheet in the front of your child's home learning book to explain what they need to do. But if you are not sure about anything then please come and ask.



Reading – The children have now got their reading books and reading records which they take home every day. Please use the reading record to write comments about their reading at home, and we will write about their reading at school. We ask that you read with your child as much as possible but **at least three times a week** to support their use of phonics and develop their fluency and expression. This could also include other reading materials such as books at home, comics, magazines, road signs etc. It is also important to develop their comprehension by asking questions and talking to them about their favourite parts of the book. I have attached a book mark to your child's reading record with some examples of questions you could ask. They don't always have to read with you, it could be with grandparents, older brothers and sisters or family friends.

Spellings – Each Wednesday the children will also be sent home with a spelling book which will contain about 6 spellings that they will need to learn ready to be tested on the following Tuesday. These spellings will be based around what they are being taught in phonics that week, so the children should be familiar with the sounds within the words. The spelling tests will be done in the back of the spelling book so that you are able to see how well they are doing. Please use the spelling booklet I have sent home to help with ideas for different fun ways to learn their spellings.

Coming and going in the mornings and afternoons- As in class 1, we ask that you drop your child at the outside door in the morning so that they can come in and get themselves unpacked and ready. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Now that the children are in Class 2 we also kindly ask that you enter and leave via the playground rather than coming in past Class 1 unless you are dropping off or collecting a sibling from class 1. Could you please also ensure that your children do not play with any of the equipment outside the classrooms in the mornings.

Class 2's Show and Tell bag- In class 2 we have a special bag that each child will have the opportunity to take home several times over the course of the year. They can put 2 special items in this bag for example, a special photo, their favourite toy and another item of their choice. They then bring the bag back into school and talk about their objects with the rest of the class.

Tapestry- In class 2 we continue to use tapestry as a way of making observations and giving you the opportunity of seeing the progress your child is making in school. We are currently in the process of transferring the accounts from class 1 to class 2; therefore please bear with us while this process takes place and we should be up and running again very soon.

I hope that this all makes sense but please do not hesitate to come and see me after school if you have any queries or concerns.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Temple