

Friday 11th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, what a start we have had to Year 2! The children have adapted brilliantly to all of the new routines and expectations and I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching them this first week. Everything, whether it be for us, them or you, is strange and new at the moment, but on the evidence I have seen so far I know we are in for a FAB-U-LOUS year.

With so many changes, I thought it might be useful to send you some information about early life in Year 2. I will send more details (the information you would have got if we were able to host the Meet the Teacher evening) in a few weeks time.

- Communication is KEY – We will be using a Home – School Diary, which you will already have seen, so that we can share messages and/or information, as required. We operate an open door policy so, no matter how trivial you may think your question or issue is, we'd rather know and be able to put your mind at rest so please use the Home- School Diary to let us know of anything, as we will you. This is particularly important if you need to notify us of a change to the pick-up routine (without it we cannot let children go). Children need to have this book with them every day in case we need to write a message to you, as well as if they need to give any to us.
- We are going to try, once these initial few weeks are out of the way, to continue to provide reading books for the children to bring home. I am sure you can appreciate however that, in these different circumstances, this will have to be done slightly differently. More information will follow over the next week or so. In the meantime, we will be continuing to work on their reading skills in school time, sharing stories as a whole class, completing daily phonics and independent guided reading tasks.
- Further to the letter sent out by Mrs Gaughan, due to COVID-19 restrictions and measures that have been introduced to keep the children safe, children will be required to come to school in their P.E kits on their P.E day. For Year 2 this is on a Wednesday and will begin on Wednesday, 16th September (please arrive in school dressed in P.E kit, the children are not required to bring uniform to change back into). We suggest that children wear their outdoor P.E kit to school (plain, dark jogging bottoms with a zip up jacket, white top and trainers), as we will be completing P.E outdoors and it can be a little chilly in the Autumn term, especially as the children will be in their kits for the whole day
- Homework is another area where we are going to have to do things slightly differently. Our intention is that children will have weekly homework which will be sent home stuck into their Homework Books. It will be handed out on a Friday and will be due back in on a Tuesday so that it can be marked before the next work is set again, on Friday. This allows for the books to be quarantined for 48 hours before being marked, therefore the deadline for handing Homework in will be final. Anything handed in after this will not be marked that week. We will begin on Friday, 18th September.
- I will be teaching the class for the majority of the week, with Mrs Mallin covering from breaktime onwards on a Thursday. Mrs Stevens will be supporting us in class every day.

- Pencil cases are often a cause for issues in Year 2, so I'll be clear from the start. Whilst we can provide everything that they may need, your child 'can' bring a small pencil case into school if they wish. This should contain; pencils, erasers, sharpener, pencil crayons, a ruler and some felt tips/pens if they wish, but they absolutely DO NOT need the entire contents of the Smiggle shop please! It will stay in school for the term.
- Water bottles are essential in these changed times when we are trying to limit contact and transference between children. Please ensure your child has a labelled water bottle to bring into school (containing ONLY water). This will come home every night to be cleaned and refreshed.

I am really looking forward to working with your children, and you, this term and know that, despite all of the difficulties of the past few months and the restrictions now in place, we are going to have lots of fun, work hard and have an awesome term!

Mr Bass