

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 over the past 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 half term are: Sharon Hall, Jayne Corner and Mandeep Atwal.

Our topic this term is '**Let's Celebrate!**' and as always we will be linking this focus across the curriculum where possible. During this topic the children will be looking at the history behind celebrations and what celebrations look like with particular focus upon:

- Celebrations connected to themselves.
- Celebrations around the UK.
- Celebrations around the world.

English: 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. We will begin developing the use of diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and apply these to our work whilst always adhering to the best Shire Oak handwriting practice. We have already started our work on Traditional Tales, thinking about their structure and will be working towards writing our own version of Jack and the Beanstalk in the next few weeks. This will be followed by a look at Traditional Fables. Our topic will provide lots of opportunities for writing. This half term the children will use information texts to research information about a celebration and create their own information page on it.

Spelling: Our phonics 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 really helpful if the children can practice these at home too. And so, with that in mind, children will be sent home with a spelling sheet 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 regularly 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 practise 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 - working on place value, addition & subtraction, multiplication & division and money. Problem solving 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 **Science** we will be looking at animals, including humans; focusing on their basic needs for survival as well as the importance of exercise and nutrition for humans. We will use our developing knowledge to carry out a number of investigations.

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 also be finding out about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom; paying particular attention to traditional celebrations within each of them.

In **Computing**, alongside general computer skills, we shall be developing our understanding of what algorithms are and how they are implemented as programs on digital devices. We will also be looking at internet safety.

In **R.E** we will be focussing on our Year 2 Christian value of 'LOVE' throughout the year and thinking about how we can make good choices. We will also be looking at how Christians and Muslims celebrate new life.

In **PSHCE** our topics will include; 'new beginnings', 'say no to bullying' and 'getting on and falling out'. We will also be thinking about our school principles; 'Be kind, Be safe, Be your best'.

In **Art** we will be exploring colour as we learn about the work of a range of artists and try to recreate their style our way.

In **DT** we will be developing the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to design, make and evaluate building structures (exploring strength) and using mechanisms such as levers, sliders, axies and wheels in our products.

The focus for **P.E.** is games, athletic skills 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 church to arrange a Baptism role play.

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. Please date and sign your child's reading record so that we know they have read their home reading books. See table below for further information about reading at home.

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, 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.

We change reading books once a week. Please ensure your child brings his/her reading book to school on the day shown below so that his/her book can be changed.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Your child will also have the opportunity to choose a school library book to bring home every Monday. Please ensure library books are returned on this day each week as we are unable to lend more than 1 library book at a time.				