

Welcome to Year 2!

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a lovely summer break. The children have started the year well and we would like to thank you for your support with this.

We have put a newsletter together all about Year 2 which we hope you will find useful.

Year 2 is the second and last year in Key Stage 1.

The Staff working within Year 2 are:

- Teachers – Miss Marsh and Miss Hawkins.
- Teaching assistant – Mrs Fletcher and Miss McGrory
- PE – Mr Unwin

We have lots of exciting things planned for this year in terms of WOW days, trips and a sleepover so we hope the children will love being a part of our journey. Updates, celebrations and events will be communicated through email, Facebook, Twitter as well as our school website so please ensure you keep your eye out for those.

The children in Year 2 will be part of statutory assessments (SATs) in May 2019. Please try and avoid booking holidays during this month. We will be holding a parents meeting to let you know what these assessments involve later on in the autumn term.

Each half term has a specific topic focus and we try to find the answer to an initial question through our studies. The topic focuses on different subject areas that are taught in a creative and cross-curricular way that also encompass our English skills. The teaching of Computing is incorporated across the curriculum, providing children with opportunities to use the Internet for research, to write and test simple computer programmes and to present their work in a variety of ways. The chart below indicates the main focus for each half term with our initial question.

Autumn		Spring		Summer	
1	2	1	2	1	2
What are British people proud of? Geography focus	Did Zog start the Great Fire of London? History and Science focus	Where would you prefer to live Edwinstowe or Africa? Geography focus	Does chocolate grow on trees? Science focus	Why did the Titanic sink? History focus	Why would a Dinosaur not make a good pet? Science focus

Routines:

School begins at 9am with the door opening at 8:50am Tuesday – Thursday for Early Bird Reading and finishes at 3:15pm.

Teachers are available to talk to if something important needs to be discussed and will be in their classrooms **from** 8:50am. If you require a longer period of time to talk to the teacher, please arrange a convenient appointment to you both.

If a different person will be collecting your child from school (even if this is a family member) please let a staff member know or call the office if this is a last minute arrangement. **WE WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD HOME WITH ANYONE IF WE HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD, EVEN IF WE KNOW THIS PERSON.**

Water is available for the children to drink throughout the day. Water bottles can be purchased from the school office or you can bring a bottle in from home but we ask that it is water and not juice that it is filled with. Water bottles will be sent home daily to be cleaned.

The children will receive homework in a 'bingo' style format. Each activity will relate to what the children are learning and they can choose which activities they would like to complete and when. They are meant to create life-long learners who want to learn and to share with parents/carers what they are doing in school. It is a chance for children to play to their strengths – if they are brilliant on the computer – do it on the computer, if they are artistic – let them show that. Children who complete their homework will be rewarded for each piece they do and will receive a certificate to reflect how many pieces they have completed. In addition to this, we will be setting weekly DoodleMaths homework and encouraging children to explore PurpleMash learning platforms. We will be sending home spellings for your child to learn on a weekly basis. These will be assessed weekly. These words will be taken directly from the common exception words that Year 2 children are expected to know by the end of the year. Please find some time to practise these with your child.

Our school website is a great way of getting to see some of the fabulous work that your child does in school. The bingo homework, letters and updates will also be put on there so it is worth checking regularly.

<http://www.kingedwin.notts.sch.uk/>

English:

The children are taught English in their class groups. Throughout the year the children are presented with numerous opportunities to read and write a variety of genres. The skills learnt in these lessons are rehearsed regularly in writing opportunities across the curriculum and sometimes linked to our topic work.

Children are expected to write in a neat, cursive style with letters formed correctly and resting on the lines.

Reading

Reading books at home is something the pupils should be experiencing every single day. We ask that parents read with their children daily and record this in their reading diaries. Please also talk about their reading book to ensure they have a good understanding of what they have read. Please use the word lists in the diaries to practise reading sight words.

Your child will be able to change their school reading book when they have read their book and this has been recorded in their diary. The children are expected to change their reading book as and when needed. Please ensure your child's reading book and diary come to school every day as they may read with adults and also we can keep a check on the amount of reads that have been done towards the Reading Challenge.

Phonics:

The children will take part in daily phonics, grammar and punctuation sessions. The children will consolidate the phonemes that they have learned in Year 1 and will start looking at spelling rules and patterns. As in Year 1, we encourage the children to apply their phonics skills within their learning including reading and writing.

Maths:

An important aspect of Mathematics is being able to work mentally. As in Year 1, each week the children will have a "Mental Maths" challenge which will help develop these skills. In Year 2, we will start to work more on application and problem solving. **See the year group expectation for more information.**

P.E.

Physical Education is a compulsory and vital part of your child's education. We ask that kit is brought into school on the first day of each half term and that it stays in school. We will send it home for washing at **the end of each half term** and this needs to be returned at the start of the next half term. Your child should have the following basic kit in order for them to fully participate in weekly PE sessions:

- White t-shirt
- Navy shorts
- Plimsolls for indoor use.

In addition we would also like you to provide:

- Blue/grey/black hoody/fleece and tracksuit bottoms during cold weather
- Outdoor footwear, including trainers

Please ensure that all kit and school uniform is clearly labelled. Earrings need to be removed in order for children to take part in PE as staff cannot remove these. Long hair should also be tied back. The days in which PE will take place can change on a half-termly basis so please refer to the school website.

How can you help your child at home?

- Read daily with your child and record it in their reading diary, this doesn't always have to be their school book.
- Counting forwards and backwards in steps of 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10
- Write and read letters and numbers.
- Practise reading and spelling sight words (in the back of the reading diary).
- Encourage your child to be more independent.
- Learn with them by completing their 'Bingo' homework activities.
- Completing activities on DoodleMaths and PurpleMash.

Please do read our year group expectations for English and Maths to see how you can help with these at home.

Parent Helpers

We really greatly appreciate any time you can offer to come in and support us in school, even if it is an hour! If you are able to come in and give us a hand, we would love to hear from you.

Useful dates:

Please bear in mind that the following dates are subject to change but we will inform you of any changes. Other universal school dates can also be found on the website and school newsletters.

Parents evening – Tuesday 15th October and Thursday 17th October 2019

Year 2 SATs meeting – Tuesday 7th January 2020 2:45pm-3:15pm

Year 2 sleepover at school – Thursday 9th July 2020

Many thanks for your continued support. Please do come and see us if you have any questions or queries.

The Year 2 Team