

## Class 2's Welcome Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school after a summer break. I hope both you and your families have had an enjoyable summer.

We have lots of exciting learning to look forward to over the year for children in KS1 and reception. Because of the class splits that we currently have across our year 1 children, Mrs Bourn and I will be working especially closely with planning and curriculum arrangements to make the year as smooth as possible and ensure consistency between the year groups.

### **Class set up**

In class 2 we have Mrs Bayes who will be working as the class teaching assistant and Mrs Lake who will be working across classes 1 and 2 to support speech and language development, reading development and individual child support. Mrs MacKenzie will also be with us, working with a child on a 1:1 basis. Mrs Mortlock will cover PPA time for class 2 on a Tuesday morning (10 – 12.15), during this time she will be teaching music and RE. PE days are Monday and Friday so please ensure PE kits stay at school all week. Year 2 children will also have swimming lessons on Thursday afternoons with Mr Railston and Mrs Bayes. During this time, I will teach all year 1 children for the afternoon, ensuring consistency for our year 1s.

Year 1 and 2 are important years for children's early development; we are working towards the phonics screener assessment for children at the end of year 1 and Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) for children at the end of year 2. Giving our children the best chance to succeed, understand and enjoy their learning is our main objective.

### **Curriculum and performances**

Reading is the most important aspect of early literacy as it feeds into children's writing development in time. All children will read with an adult individually in school and in guided reading groups where the focus is on the 6 skills of reading taught in the reading VIPERS style sessions which we have adopted (vocabulary, infer, predict, explain, retrieve and sequence). It is essential that children read at home daily and it is recorded in the Love Reading books. At the end of the week, Love Reading books will be checked and children who read at home on a daily basis will be rewarded with dojo points. If you feel you can spare a few hours to listen to children reading please talk to me about it.

We are following White Rose and Power Maths for maths this year as they have a very clear and visual development for maths knowledge and processes. These focus on 3 key concepts throughout to develop mathematical learning, which are; fluency, reasoning and problem solving.

Our topic to start the autumn term is 'All about ME'. The children will be working towards writing an information booklet about themselves so they will be sharing their likes/dislikes, hobbies and facts about themselves. They will be combining this with learning with geographical enquiry to find out more about their local environment. They will also practise mapping skills to create a map detailing the journey from the school to CM beach.

We will move onto developing Design and Technology skills by learning skills to design, make and evaluate a model of a playground with moving parts for some of the equipment.

We are very lucky to have Mrs Whatley volunteering this again year. She volunteers in school 2 days a week to listen to children read and teach fantastic art sessions to groups of year 2 children. Hopefully we can squeeze in some art sessions for year 1 children too, as the year progresses.

There will be a Harvest festival celebration where each class will perform their learning. The skill of performance is something which we have been developing as a school as it is a brilliant opportunity to develop children's confidence through speaking and listening as well as working effectively with their peers through drama.

In the second half of the autumn term the children will be learning about the history of Bonfire night and the traditional celebrations of the event. They will create poetry and artwork inspired by bonfire night and they will create a set of safety instructions for either sparklers or bonfires.

KS1 and reception children will be working together to put on a Christmas performance in December. There will be lines to learn, songs and dances to rehearse and costumes and props to make so the children (and adults) will be very busy!

### **Trips**

We will be doing a few walking trips to CM beach and Hangman hill to support our mapping skills in geography. We will require parental support to have enough adults to comply with adult to child ratios for children outside of school. Please look out for trip requests and let me know if you are available to help. Early in the spring term we are aiming to do a trip to Rosemoor to do their 'Home for a Robin' workshop which will link well with our learning at that time. We are also hoping to have a trip to Quince Honey farm in the Spring term to kick off the 'Bees, yes please' topic where children will be learning about pollination, plants and the natural environment. In the Summer term Year 2 children will have the 'Shark Sleepover' trip to Plymouth aquarium which works fantastically well with our sea school learning. As our school is now part of the Alumnis Multi-academy Trust we have a policy in place where trips will need to have 90% of the parental contributions in place so the trip is secured. Please bear these in mind throughout the year as monetary contributions will be required in order for the children to enjoy the learning experiences.

### **Class dojo**

We use class dojo to keep in contact and share children's learning with you at home. It is also very useful for reminders about upcoming events and quick questions. Children will collect dojo points for positive learning behaviours (resilience, reflectiveness, resourcefulness and reciprocity) and for lots of other daily rewards. If you are not signed up, please speak to me and I can do that with you.

We hope to have a very positive term to start off the academic year. If I can be of any further help you can message via dojo or pop in at the end of the day to speak to me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Aimie Vickery

