

Squirrels

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 2. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready for a busy term ahead. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your children.

In the term ahead we will be studying the seasons and weather in *Geography*, this will include map work locating hot and cold areas. In *Science* we will be investigating *Everyday Materials*; their properties and their uses.

How can you help.....

The three main areas you can help with are reading, spelling and times tables.

Reading.

Please listen to your child read on a regular basis; encourage your child to read all the time - instructions, recipes, comics, street signs - it all counts. It is also important to help your child understand what they are reading - good questions to ask are:

'what do you think the story is about?'

'who is your favourite character?'

'can you remember what has happened so far?'

'what do you think will happen next?'

It is also important to check your child understands new words and phrases.

Spelling

Spelling will take a different form this year - we will be learning spelling rules rather than a set of words each week. Please help your child learn these rules and look for words that are spelt in that way. I am included a list of common exception words that all Year 2 children should be able to spell at the end of the year.

Times Tables

There are three stages to learning the times tables;

1 learning the tables in order $1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 2 = 4$

2 answering questions out of order and applying knowledge $2 \times 5 = 10$ therefore $5 \times 2 = 10$,

3 learning the division facts alongside the multiplication for example $2 \times 5 = 10$ therefore $10 \div 2 = 5$ and $10 \div 5 = 2$.

Children in Year 2 need to be fluent in the 2x, 5x and 10 x tables. Chanting the tables over a meal or as you walk to school is a great way to help your children learn.

There are a number of good apps that you can use to help your child with spellings and times tables: Maths Rockx, Squeebles and the spelling shed are some that I would recommend.

PE

This half-term Year 2 will have Gym on a Wednesday taught by Hannah Palframan and PE on a Tuesday afternoon. Whilst the weather is still fine it is also perfectly possible that we will be outside for our PE session. Therefore, please ensure children have a pair of trainers in their kit bag. As the term progresses, jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt will also be needed. Please note that all PE kit must conform to the uniform policy. Furthermore, earrings are to be removed or not to be worn on PE days and long hair needs to be tied back. **Finally, as always, please ensure that every item of PE kit and school uniform is clearly named.**

Forest Schools

You should already have received a letter about forest school on a Wednesday. Please send in wellies and a waterproof coat - children will be out in all weathers. There are a number of pairs of wellington boots outside my classroom; if your child does not have wellies they will be able to borrow these.

Please ensure that all of your children's clothes are named.

Don't forget that you can follow the school on Twitter and Facebook.

If you have any queries or concerns, contact the school office or please speak to me at the end of the school day.

Rachel Lewis