



Mr. Gary Spracklen - Headteacher (@Nelkcarps)



Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2HH



01305 257120



office@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk



<http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>

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Year Two - Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Autumn Term! We hope that you have had a happy and successful Summer!

Today we've been busy with- Story-writing, Reading, Spelling Practice, the "Daily Mile", Singing, History (comparing old steam trains and modern trains) and had a whole school assembly with Mr. Spracklen.

The Year Two Team -



Mr. Duncan MacBean

Class Teacher



Mrs. Di Bernard

Teaching Assistant



Mrs Emma Hibberd

Senior Teaching Assistant



Mrs. Paula Thompson

Senior Teaching Assistant



Miss. Jessica Kendall

Teaching Assistant

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Some Dates for your Diaries (Year Two) -

Friday 7th Sept - Parent Forum 8.45-10.00 am

Friday 14th Sept - Year Two Parents Information Session 9.00-9.30 am

Mon 24th Sept -Fri 5th Oct - Farming Fortnight

Friday 5th Sept - Harvest Assemblies. K.S.1 at 9.15-9.45

Friday 5th Sept evening Autumn Fest (POWSA)

Tuesday 25th September - Upwey/Portesham Visit

Wednesday 26th September - Upwey/Portesham Visit

Friday 12th October - Inset Day

Tuesday 16th October - Parents' Consultations (later evening session)

Wednesday 17th October - Parents' Consultations (earlier evening session)

Monday 22nd October - Half Term Holiday (Inset Day on Monday 29th)

Tuesday 30th October - Back to School

Wednesday 31st October - Parents' Forum

Friday 16th November - Year Two Class Assembly

Tuesday 4th December - Priest's House Museum Visit

Wednesday 5th December - Priest's House Museum Visit

Our Approach to Literacy Learning -

Phonics, SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Reading -

This September, we have made some changes across the school to support greater progress for all children in Literacy. These changes come with a particular focus on children's development of Phonic, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Reading skills.

Our changes build on the success of the 'Ruth Miskin: Read, Write Inc. Phonics Programme' which we started using in Reception and Year 1 last year and now include the introduction of 'Ruth Miskin: Read Write Inc. Spelling Programme' and the use of 'AR (Accelerated Reader)' for children in Year 1 to Year 4.

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An overview of each programme is included below -

Read Write Inc. Phonics teaches children to read accurately and fluently with good comprehension. They learn to form each letter, spell correctly, and compose their ideas step-by-step.

Reading - Children learn the English alphabetic code: first they learn one way to read the 40+ sounds and blend these sounds into words, then learn to read the same sounds with alternative graphemes.

They experience success from the very beginning. Lively phonic books are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words and, as children re-read the stories, their fluency increases.

Along with a thought-provoking introduction, prompts for thinking out loud and discussion, children are helped to read with a storyteller's voice.

Writing -

The children write every day, rehearsing out loud what they want to say, before spelling the words using the graphemes and 'tricky' words they know.

They practise handwriting every day: sitting at a table comfortably, they learn correct letter formation and how to join letters speedily and legibly.

Children's composition (ideas, vocabulary and grammar) is developed by drawing on their own experiences and talking about the stories they read.

All staff who teach **Read Write Inc. Phonics** have received two days of official Ruth Miskin Ltd Training and benefit from ongoing official training opportunities that take place at The Prince of Wales School. Ongoing support is provided by **Read Write Inc. Phonics** expert Kirsten McKenzie.

Children accessing the **Read Write Inc. Phonics** programme will not bring home weekly spellings, instead they will be encouraged to practise the sounding-out and blending of sounds. Which sounds need to be practised (green cards) and which sounds need to be learnt (red cards) will be made clear by your child's teacher.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/programmes/phonics/>

Read Write Inc. Spelling is for children who can read accurately, with increasing speed. With 15 minutes of daily teaching, children develop confident spelling.

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Although the teaching of phoneme-grapheme correspondence underpins this programme, it also develops children's knowledge of word families, how suffixes impact upon root words, and provides mnemonics to remember the trickiest spellings.

The teaching revolves around instruction (with the help of online alien characters), partner and group practice, and competitive group challenges that help children commit new words to memory.

All staff who teach **Read Write Inc. Spelling** have received one full day of official Ruth Miskin Ltd Training and benefit from ongoing official training opportunities that take place at The Prince of Wales School. Ongoing support is provided by **Read Write Inc. Spelling** expert Kirsten McKenzie.

Children accessing the **Read Write Inc. Spelling** programme will not bring home weekly spellings, instead they will bring home a log book daily. The log book will include spellings the children need to practice at home on a daily basis. The approach required will be made clear by your child's teacher.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/programmes/spelling/>

For both **Read Write Inc. Phonics** and **Read Write Inc. Spelling** all children are assessed regularly by our RWI Lead (Mrs. Smith) so they work with children at the same level. This allows complete participation in lessons.

AR (Accelerated Reader) is a reading programme that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://www.renaissance.com/services/parent-resources/>

More information about AR (Accelerated Reader) will be sent home in due course. Teaching Staff will be receiving specialist AR (Accelerated Reader) training on Monday 24th September 2018.

Class Blog

The class blog is the best place to keep up with all the latest news, events and activities in Year Two. You can access this blog through our school website at: <http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>, via our Facebook and Twitter (see the links on the school website) or via our school's iPhone App which is available to download in the App Store. We hope that you find this method of communication useful and encourage you to comment using the inbuilt tools. Other staff working with the Year Two Class may also make a comment relating to the children's work.

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Using Online Tools for Home Learning

We would like to encourage all pupils to access the online tools available through the school website. This will support home learning. We will provide login details and passwords for **“Reading Eggspress”**, **“Mathletics”**, **“Accelerated Reader”** and **“Purple Mash”**. These new “login details” will be available by the end of the week.

We would like to remind you of the school’s policy on using the Internet at home, - to always supervise your child when using the Internet.

Other Home Learning

I will be encouraging the children to do small pieces of written work and mathematical activities as “home learning” each week. They will be given a week (from Wednesday to Wednesday) for these tasks. These will be explained on paper-copy in the children’s “book bags” and also detailed in Blogs on the Year Two Blog page. This will happen every week.

Snacks

We are keen that the children have a healthy snack at Break Time. We are able to provide the children with some fruit, but you may like to supplement this for your child. We would like to positively encourage healthy snacks. Your child should put his/her snack in the “Snack Tray” when they arrive at school.

Water

We are keen that the children should have access to water in the classroom as there is much evidence to support the idea that this helps them to learn. Please give your child a named water container. This can stay at school and they can top it up in the Servery when necessary. This is separate to the drink that you provide for their lunch.

Class Visit to Upwey/Portesham

You will receive a newsletter informing you about our class visits to Upwey and Portesham on **Tuesday 25th September and Wednesday 26th September**. Please fill in and return the reply slip as soon as possible. We would welcome offers of support for these trips and are particularly keen to hear from those of you that would be happy to drive. Thank you.

Communication between School and Parents (Year Two)

Please feel that you can approach any of the Year Two Team to discuss any issues, worries, concerns that you may have when you drop off and pick up your child.

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If you would like to arrange a more detailed or confidential chat with me (DM), then I would be very happy to make an appointment to do so. It is always better to deal with any concerns as quickly as possible rather than wait until the Parents Consultation Evenings.

The next Parents' Consultation Interviews are on Tuesday 16th October (5.30-8.00) and Wednesday 17th October (3.30-6.00).

This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's work.

Kind regards,

Duncan MacBean
Year 2 Class Teacher