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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 Holiday!

In our first week back, we've been busy with lots of new exciting work. I do hope that the children have come home with lots of enthusiastic chatter about what they've been up to. They all seem to have settled back into the routines of school very happily.

The Year Two Team are:



Mr. D. MacBean
Year Two Class Teacher
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. T. Brooker
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. P. Thompson
Senior 1:1 Teaching Assistant - Physical
(Monday - Friday)

Some Dates for your Diaries (Year Two) -

Friday 13th Sept - Year Two Parents Information Session 9.00-9.30 am

Mon 30th Sept - Fri 11th Oct - Farming Fortnight



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Mon 7th or 8th Sept (depending on group) - Abbotsbury Railway Trip

Friday 11th Oct - Harvest Assemblies

Friday 11th Oct evening Autumn Fest (POWSA)

Tuesday 22nd Oct - Parents' Consultations (later evening session)

Wednesday 23rd Oct- Parents' Consultations (earlier evening session)

Monday 28th October - Half Term Holiday (Inset Day on Monday 4th Nov))

Tuesday 5th Nov - Back to School

Friday 22nd Nov- Year Two Class Assembly

Mon 2nd Dec - Fri 6th Dec - STEM Week

Fri 13th Dec - Christmas Technology Day

18th, 19th, 20th Dec - Christmas Shows

Fri 20th Dec - Christmas Party (on our last day of term)

Our Approach to Literacy Learning -

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

We are aiming to continue to support greater progress for all children in Literacy by following the 'Ruth Miskin: Read, Write Inc. Phonics and Spelling Programmes'.

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.

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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.

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.

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 who are working on the **Read Write Inc. Spelling** programme will be given a list of words each week that they can practise at home. These lists will support the work that they are covering in class during that week.

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.

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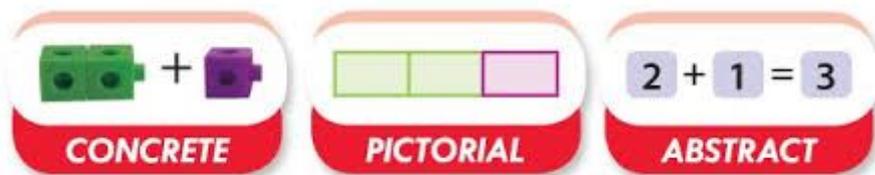
AR (Accelerated Reader) is a reading programme that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.

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

Mathematics Scheme - Power Maths

We recognise that pupils need to develop their conceptual understanding. In other words, pupils don't only need to be able to recall facts quickly, they also need to be able to apply their knowledge in a range of different contexts, including those that are new and unfamiliar. This is the idea at the heart of 'Maths Mastery', an approach to Maths based upon best practice found in Singapore.

In order to develop conceptual understanding in our pupils, this year we are implementing the CPA approach to learning (concrete, pictorial and abstract). This approach recognises that in order for pupils to understand abstract concepts, they must first learn mathematical concepts through the use of concrete resources and pictorial representation.

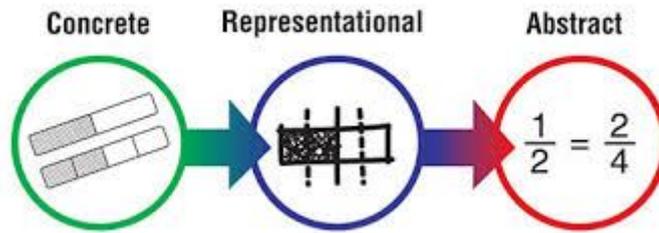


Concrete is the 'doing' stage, using concrete objects to solve problems. It brings concepts to life by allowing children to handle physical objects themselves.

Pictorial is the 'seeing' stage, using representations of the objects involved in maths problems. This stage encourages children to make a mental connection between the physical object and abstract levels of understanding, by drawing or looking at pictures, circles, diagrams or models which represent the objects in the problem.

Abstract is the 'symbolic' stage, where children are able to use abstract symbols to model and solve maths problems.

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We have purchased a new scheme of learning called 'Power Maths' in order to help us embed this approach. This scheme is based upon extensive research into maths teaching around the world, particularly Singapore. We have also purchased new physical resources to use within our lessons.

Knowledge Organisers

Our new "Knowledge Organisers" will give you an overview of our plans for the curriculum each half-term. We hope that you find these useful and are grateful for the many positive comments that we have received about them so far.

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.

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 "**Mathletics**", "**Accelerated Reader**" and "**Purple Mash**". The children's "login details" will remain the same as last year, but if you need these, please do come and ask us.

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.

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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/Abbotsbury - The Abbotsbury Railway

In due course, you will receive a newsletter informing you about our class visits to **"Upwey to Abbotsbury" on Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October**. 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.

"Children's Voice" Year Two Representatives:

Our Year Two School Council Reps this year are Charlie W., Gracie H., Isla B. and George D. They were voted in by their classmates. The other children in the class are encouraged to take any issues they may have about school life to their Reps to be discussed at Council Meeting with Mrs. Thorpe.

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.

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 22nd October (5.30-8.00) and Wednesday 23rd October (3.30-6.00).

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

Kind regards,

Duncan MacBean
Year 2 Class Teacher