

Welcome to Sandpiper and Cormorant Class



Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Year 2 and tell you a bit about what to expect this year. Some of the information you probably already know but it is just to recap and to help answer any queries you might have. You will also receive information about this term's topic shortly.

Becoming More Confident and Independent

In Year 2 we place building children's confidence and independence at the centre of all we do. We want the children to believe in themselves and their abilities. We like to positively build on the children's strengths and so place great value on children's efforts and those who go 'above and beyond' in their learning and their kindness. We give time and attention to all the children, support them, stretch them and give them work which is appropriate to their ability. We aim to make school an enjoyable place where the children are motivated and keen to learn.

Reading

At school your child will have an individual reading book which will be changed once they have fully explored it with you at home. This year the children who are working on developing their confidence in phonics and reading with fluency will have books chosen for them (a reading letter will be coming home to explain further). Children who are reading fluently and with confidence will be able to choose their own books at the appropriate colour stage. We expect parents to write the title of the book into their record book, write which pages they have read at home and add a comment. It helps your child's reading progress if you can hear them read their reading book every day at home. Sometimes they will get the opportunity to read this book to an adult in school.

Your child will also take part in daily guided reading sessions. During guided reading the children will read the same book together and discuss it. Comprehension skills are developed during this session. Once a week the teacher will write a comment in your child's reading diary with suggestions for next steps. We hope you will find this useful when reading at home. At school we teach the children to read but they need lots of practice in order to succeed and you can provide this at home.

Spellings

This year children will not be taking home spellings to learn. However, there will be a high expectation in class to use spellings we learn in their written work. We will also send home words that the children are expected to learn by the end of the year so you are able to use them to practise reading and writing with your child.

Open Classroom

These sessions will be unable to run currently due to the restrictions on adults entering the school.

KS1 Assessments

This year children in Year 2 will again be taking their end of key stage assessment tests in May. We will do everything we can to prepare them for this but we also aim to make it as stress-free an experience as possible. Nearer the time we will provide you with more details.

The children in our current Year 2 missed the phonics screening check while in Year 1 as it was during the lockdown period. We are therefore being asked to complete the check during the second half of the Autumn term. Children who do not succeed in this check will have the opportunity to complete it again next June. We will be teaching phonics daily to support the children in this.

Other Routines and Information

- At the beginning of the day, children will be expected to come in to class independently, hang up their coats and bags and take their book bag to their allocated table.
- Reading books need to be taken home and brought to school every day.
- Children must bring in their own water bottle as we are currently unable to provide facilities at school for each individual. They will need to be taken home to wash thoroughly each night.
- Please remember to label all your child's clothes. They are responsible for looking after their own belongings including jumpers!
- PE kits: This half term we are not expecting children to bring in a full PE kit. However, we are expecting to be able to have most PE sessions outside so please send your child into school with a pair of pumps or trainers (these will need to be Velcro fastenings as the adults will not be able to help with laces).

Working Together

We believe children make the best progress and are happiest at school when parents, teachers and teaching assistants work together. You are always welcome to come to the classroom door if you ever have any questions, comments or concerns. If you feel you need a longer discussion time, or a more private conversation, contact the office and we can book an appointment.

Even though things are different to how we would like them to be this September, we are very excited about this year and the learning we have planned and we hope your child is too. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any more questions.

Yours faithfully

Emily Lewis and Heather Thomas