

**Year Two**  
**Autumn Term 2017**  
**Curriculum Newsletter (Termly Class Letter)**  
**Class Teachers: Sarah Chambers, Amber Bowery and Cameron Taylor**  
**Issue 1**

Welcome back! We hope you are all rested after the summer holidays and we are pleased to see the children settling in so well. This letter contains important information about Year Two.

### **English**

In **English**, we will cover the objectives of the 2014 National Curriculum.

### **Reading, Speaking and Listening**

A core message from the curriculum is to embed 'reading for pleasure'. Key to this is decoding (reading words) and comprehending (understanding). A form of reading takes place in every lesson throughout the school day. In addition, planned English lessons focus on comprehension skills and children continue to have a reading day on which they read with a teacher in a small group (guided reading). This time gives the opportunity to practise reading words as well as discuss texts in line with speaking and listening objectives. We also will be doing a "Big Read" where the whole class will share a text together several days a week. Please ensure that book bags are brought into school on your child's reading day. Book bags will be sent home the **following** day with the exception of Friday.

### **Writing**

In Year Two children will have the opportunity to explore a range of writing genres (stories, instructions, newspapers, recounts, poetry). The subject matter is regularly linked to our topics. Typically writing develops at a slower rate to reading as children 'juggle' the demands of spelling, sentence structure and punctuation. It is extremely important that a correct pencil grip is established and correct formation of letters (upper and lowercase) and numbers are secured. Discrete handwriting sessions are timetabled and children will begin to join their letters as soon as individual letters are formed correctly.

### **SPAG**

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar has a raised profile in the New Curriculum. In Year Two children will be introduced to a new spelling rule at the beginning of the week. Spellings are regularly practised throughout the week before being taken home. Spelling checks will take place on Mondays. Learning common exception word spellings by heart will really support your child's writing.

### **Maths**

In **Maths** we will be working from the New Maths Framework, incorporating numbers up to 100, times tables (2, 5 and 10), division as sharing, place value, shape and space etc. As the year progresses the children will be formally recording their work. As you may have heard, the curriculum for maths has changed with higher expectations. We try to make maths as engaging and fun as possible but also incorporate the repetition of key facts which they will need in their mathematical journey.

This half term, our topic is '**Faster, Higher, Stronger**'.

In **Science** our topics are Health and Growth in animals (including people). As part of this topic we will be looking at; healthy eating, growing, rest, hygiene and exercise. The children are welcome to bring in any books or booklets relevant to this topic. If you work in this industry (doctor, nurse, dentist etc), could you please see your class teacher as it would be great to share your expertise with the children!

In **History** we will be looking at the life of Florence Nightingale and other significant individuals linked to our topic.

In **RE** we will be looking at influential people exploring the question 'How should we live our lives?'

In **Design and Technology** we will be focusing on nutrition, particularly looking at healthy food choices and the five food groups.

In **Art** we will be looking at drawing and painting using a range of methods and media. Over the year all classes will have an opportunity to work with our specialist Art teacher Ms Sawyer.

In **SEAL** (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) we will be looking at 'New Beginnings' and concentrating on settling the children happily into Year 2.

Our **School Values** for this academic year are: 'Co-operation', 'Empathy', 'Fairness', 'Forgiveness', 'Kindness' and 'Loyalty'.

In **P.E** our focus this term will be gymnastics i.e. balancing and travelling including bouncing and jumping. We will also be developing ball skills in games. It is essential that children have their PE kits in school everyday. This includes a Rhodes Avenue T-shirt (available from the school office), shorts, jogging bottoms, a warm top and appropriate footwear. Children will be asked to remove or cover earrings before taking part in their PE session. Please make sure that girls have longer hair tied up on their PE days.

PE Days:

**2CT – Tuesday and Thursday**

**2AB – Tuesday and Thursday**

**2SC – Tuesday and Thursday**

In **Music** sessions children will explore sound and rhythm, as well as attending a weekly singing assembly. Later in the term, children will also have the opportunity to join the infant choir if they wish.

**Homelearning** at Rhodes Avenue provides children with the opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning. The aim of homework is to develop pupil independence, resilience and resourcefulness. They should be able to complete their homework with minimal adult support, however if your child does struggle with the homework provided please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher.

**Homelearning** will be sent home on Thursdays. It will comprise of their weekly spellings, a Maths task and another English/Topic task, and should be handed in by the following **Tuesday**. The spelling test will be on a **Monday**.

## Important Autumn term dates for your diaries:

<b>Half term</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October until Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Inset Day</b>	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
<b>Back to school</b>	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
<b>Parents' evenings</b>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November
<b>Christmas Productions</b>	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> , Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>End of term</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 1pm finish
<b>Inset Day</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018
<b>Back to school</b>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2018

## Trips/Visits and Workshops

Educational visits are an important aspect of the Rhodes Avenue Curriculum. School visits and trips provide the opportunity to enrich learning outside of the classroom and inspire learning back at school.

We aim to take the children on as many school trips as possible however we recognise this can become costly. We have decided this year to set a maximum limit on the amount we ask you to pay for trips over the whole year to £30. The school will make every effort to keep the cost of the educational visits to a minimal by using public transport or by visiting free exhibitions.

*We will inform you of Educational visits and trips closer to the date.*

## Other Information

Much of the children's learning this year will be cross-curricular, and we will take every opportunity to introduce them to new areas of learning in a fun and interesting way. We will be working hard with the children and you to ensure that the transition from Year 1 to Year 2 is a positive one.

Please be aware that on a Thursday we have specialist teachers for PE, Art and French who will be dismissing the children at the end of the day.

## Healthy Schools

As part of school policy and our commitment to being a Healthy School children are provided with a fruit/vegetable snack each day. Water will always be available during the school day and we are happy for you to bring into school a bottle of water clearly labelled.

A reminder that each class has their own football day and class football. Please do not bring in footballs from home.

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a mutually convenient time. We look forward to a successful and fulfilling term with your children.

We looking forward to working with you,

*Sarah Chambers, Amber Bowery and Cam Taylor*

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