



Bishop William Ward C of E (VA) Primary School

Happy, respectful, lifelong learners

Headteacher: Mr Toby Bull

17th September 2018

Dear Parents

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child into Year Two. We look forward to working alongside you and your child during this academic year. Mrs Davis, teacher, and Mrs Wheatstone, Teaching Assistant, are responsible for the class on Mondays to Thursdays and Mrs Ivey is supported by Mrs McCormick on Fridays. Mrs Wheatstone is also a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and will be the class teacher on Wednesday afternoons; this provides release time for Mrs Davis.

Expectations

The expectation of our 6 and 7 year old children is extremely high and the children amaze us every year with their capacity to achieve fantastic things.

There is a big leap with reading expectations for example between Years 1 and 2. Whereas the children were screened on decoding single words last summer, in Year 2 they are expected to read several pages of complex text independently. Therefore, daily reading at home is as important as ever.

We feel that in Year 2 children should be encouraged to be more independent and organised. Responsibility for: items of clothing, lunch boxes, water bottles, personal possessions, handing in homework and letters/reply slips will be the responsibility of the children. We will support and remind children of these things whenever possible. It is of course enormously helpful if items of clothing, footwear, lunch boxes, water bottles and book bags are named. It is with regret that we send items to lost property; but this is inevitably where un-named items go.

Children are requested not to bring in pencil cases at this stage. We may review this later in the year.



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Year 2 Morning Routines

- The classroom is open from 8.40am and children will be registered at 8.50am.
- Thank you for saying your 'goodbyes' at the green side gate. This allows the children to enter the classroom by themselves, increasing their independence and makes for a calmer and more efficient start to the day.
- Staff are responsible for the children from 8.40am, so messages should come via the office please.
- Should you need to talk to a staff member, we are always happy to help. Please come to see any of us at the end of the school day, once the majority of children have been safely dismissed. Alternatively, please phone the office to arrange a mutually convenient time for us to meet.
- Children should routinely use the time before registration to change their home/school reading book and they will do this independently. If you find your child is not changing their reading book frequently please mention it to the staff at the end of the day, so we can support them with this.
- Children on Reading Steps 5 and above should only take home one reading book a night please.
- There are early work tasks for the children from 8.40am. Instructions for this will be on the board. All children in Year 2 are expected to read this, albeit some with support from others.

Reading

Learning to read relies heavily on the partnership between home and school. In school, children will learn strategies for reading. Your child's potential can be unleashed by the time you dedicate to reading with them. Please do hear your child read as often as you possibly can - preferably at least ten minutes each day.



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- If you feel that your child is reading their books with ease then please let us know so that we can assess whether they are ready to move to the next reading step. They must have a secure understanding of what they read before this is likely to happen.
- Year 2 children are expected to be able to read many Common Exception Words (in Year 2 we call them 'tricky' or 'wishing' words*). These words cannot be sounded out, so have to be learnt through frequent rehearsal. We will provide a sheet in the front of their reading diary to help with this. Homemade flash cards may be useful too.
- Adults in school will hear children read individual reading books as often as possible and children will also read through 'guided reading' sessions. Comments from these small group sessions will not appear in reading diaries but, rest assured, your child will be reading to a grown-up at school.

Homework

Homework in Year 2 consists of: daily reading, mental maths rehearsal, main homework task.

- Homework is set on Thursdays and will come home in a homework book. It should be brought back to class by the following Wednesday and put into the 'Homework' drawer for marking on Wednesday evening. All returned homework is rewarded with a dojo point.
- Homework tasks do vary; sometimes writing, sometimes maths, sometimes creative learning. It is set with the expectation of some adult support.
- Year 2 children are expected to spend roughly twenty minutes each week on homework activities. Homework is engineered to be relevant to the children's learning at the time and to follow up or move their learning on. We are always happy to read comments relating to how the children found the task. If they worked hard for 20 minutes, feel free to stop them. We often find that parents are good at encouraging better presentation and handwriting - extra dojos are awarded for really lovely learning.

Mental maths: There are fundamental mathematical concepts that the children in Year 2 must grasp. To aid their progress with this, mental maths homework is set each week and will be tested in class the following Thursday.

- Your child is likely to need your support in rehearsing the mental strategies as part of their homework, moving them towards the expectation required for the end of Key Stage 1.
- Mental strategies will be explained on the homework sheet. However, should you have any queries, please do ask.



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Spellings: Mrs Ivey will be teaching spellings on a Friday. This term children will not be formally tested on their spellings but instead will learn strategies and have rehearsal times in class.

*Year 2 children are expected to be able to spell all 'wishing words'/Common Exception Words. They will be tested on these across the year.

P.E.

- P.E this term is on Mondays and Tuesdays and kit will need to remain in school for the half term.
- Please ensure that your child has a complete PE kit (including outdoor footwear and warm jogging bottoms and jumper during the winter and spring) with each item individually and clearly named.
- PE footwear can include either trainers or plimsolls. Currently there are a number of children with no indoor footwear.
- Please ensure that earrings are removed on PE days or that your child can remove them independently. Staff will not remove earrings for children and microtape is no longer used to cover earrings. Therefore, earrings in = no PE.

Topic Theme

Our topic for this term is *The Great Fire of London*. Further details of Year 2 learning can be found on the school website under Year Two Curriculum Map.

Trips and Experience Days

We anticipate trips to Colchester Zoo (Spring term), a drumming workshop and a trip to Colchester Castle (Summer term). The total contributions for the year for these experiences are likely to come to around £35. We hope that this seems reasonable.

Thank you in advance for your valued support,

Mrs Davis and Mrs Ivey