Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 2. I look forward to working with you. Here are a few things to help you throughout the year.

Your children have taken to their role as ‘elders’ of Key Stage 1 with relish and generally enjoy the feeling of being a ‘little older and wiser’. Of course, with this comes the expectation that the children will take on more responsibility for organising themselves. I look forward to fewer lost jumpers and hope the children will continue to sort their book bags, post and reply slips speedily each morning and at the end of the day. They have made a good start.

Class 2 have P.E. on Monday afternoon and are currently having Golden time on Friday afternoons. Please ensure that they have their kit in school every day. This should include proper trainers for outdoor games, a spare pair of socks, t-shirt, shorts above the knee for gymnastics and a warm tracksuit for outdoor games. When the weather is very cold, gloves and a woolly hat may also be worn. It is school policy that long hair is always tied back and no jewellery or watches are to be worn for Games or P.E.. Ear studs must be removed wherever possible or taped (children need to provide and apply their own tape).

Please ensure that all school uniform, PE kit and water bottles are named to avoid personal belongings being misplaced as children move around the school. We do have a lost property box in the cloakroom - if you know your child is missing school jumpers, etc. please encourage them to look regularly, or speak to a member of staff if you would like to have a look yourself.

Initial reading assessments are currently being completed but as your children are such keen readers, I wanted to make sure they had books going home to keep them going. We are currently sending home books from the stage they were on just before the summer break. I appreciate the children may have made great stride in their reading over the holidays and I will adjust their material accordingly once I am more fully acquainted with reading abilities. I aim to hear your child read individually at least once a week – this may be their ORT book or our class text. Your children are asked to get their reading packets out each morning – they will have the opportunity to change their book providing a grown-up has signed to say it is completed.

I appreciate that families have busy lives away from school but please hear your child/children read every evening and please comment on how they got on in the yellow reading record. Get your child to retell the story, say whether they liked it or a particular character and, importantly, get them to justify their ideas. Your input will be crucial in developing your child’s (children’s) ability to comprehend a text, express an opinion and ‘read between the lines’. Each alternate fortnight your child will have a reading activity or comprehension task to complete that is linked to either their reading book or a class text. The children will soon have the opportunity to borrow a library book once a week.

Spellings will be set weekly on a Tuesday and tested the following week on the Monday. A focus list will be stuck into their spelling books to go home and I have attached a note alongside this first entry. Not all activities will fit inside this compact book so please feel free to use some separate paper if you are cutting and sticking newspaper letters for example (see spelling ideas sheet in this pack). Alternatively, you can continue to use the write, copy and cover method alongside written sentences with your spellings (statements, commands, questions and exclamations). This will be a good opportunity for them to ‘show off’ all the handwriting and sentence skills they are learning. I will give the children a spelling test on Monday and have the following focus words stuck into their books for Tuesday to take home. This allows me to group children with different spelling words to consolidate or widen their spelling vocabulary. Mathletics will also be set weekly. The focus, across the school for this half term, will be on place value and the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Please find attached a copy of the Year 2 timetable and a curriculum mind map, along with a question sheet that may be useful to help discussing the books your children are reading. I have also included a list of the common exception words, which the children are expected to learn by the end of the year, along with further guidance to spelling rules covered in year 2.

This year I have started a ‘What’s the point of…?’ folder. Sounds odd I know, but I really want the children to engage in thinking about how learning English and Maths will help their everyday lives. If you could send a child written note or message from yourselves, with an example of how **you’ve** needed to use English and Maths in your daily life, I know the children will be fascinated and feel motivated.

**Finally and importantly**, if you have any queries – no matter how small - I would be pleased to see you. Please contact the school to make an appointment or catch me after school to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Best wishes,

Miss West