



St. Alphege C. E. Infant School

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

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Year Two Newsletter September 2019

Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to school! We hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and would like to welcome your child into Year 2. The children are very excited about the topics, trips and fun activities we have ahead of us and can't wait to get started with their learning in Year 2! To make things easier for the year ahead we thought it would be helpful to inform you of some housekeeping details:

Pump Bags

Pump bags need to remain in school with your child's **P.E kit** and **painting overall** as these items may be required on any day of the week and are used frequently for a variety of activities. Please ensure full P.E. kit including joggers, jumpers, trainers and pumps are also in PE bags as we will be going outside throughout the year! Pump bags are usually sent home half termly for kit to be washed and checked. Please ensure pumps are appropriately sized and that every item is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Reading Books

Reading books come home every night. The idea of frequently sending your child's book home is for them to regularly practise the skills taught at school. This will enhance your child's reading ability and help to develop a love of reading. So please, "little and often" is all that is asked. It is not necessary to rush your child through the reading scheme and can indeed be unhelpful to your child's success. **We really would like to stress the importance of discussing the text and asking valuable questions that measure your child's understanding and comprehension of each text that they read.** Further guidance on this will be given at the Literacy IMPACT workshop.

When learning to read your child will come across various different text types that are all part of a comprehensive range, enabling them to develop the various skills required in order to become a fluent reader. As a staff we are very appreciative of your support and know through regular practise your child will develop into a confident, independent reader who has a love of reading and appreciates its value. You will be surprised how quickly your child's reading will improve with gentle support and guidance. Please remember that all children are individuals and progress at different rates. Some come across glitches at different points during their reading development and this is where regular practise, support and dialogue between home and school is essential to ensure a continued and happy journey.

Please ensure that books and reading records are returned the following day regardless of whether or not your child has completed the reading book or had time to read it (*we appreciate that this does occasionally happen!*) as we may be planning to hear your child read that day. Books will be changed regularly, as required, by members of school staff. Please comment and sign the reading record whenever you listen to your child read.

Spellings

Although we are not sending home formal lists, there is a set of Common Exception words that **all** children are required to know by the end of Year 2. **We expect children to regularly practise these words at home** so that they can then use them correctly and with independence in their written work. A list of these words will be set as homework at the end of this week and we would appreciate your support in rehearsing the list at home throughout the year. We will test children on these words in school frequently and continually assess their ability to read and spell them independently.

Music in Year 2

Music has always played a large part in the creative development of each child. Historically Miss Taylor has run an after school recorder club for children who wished to attend. However, with an increasing wish to encourage creativity and foster a love of music, this year Miss Taylor is going to teach the recorder as a whole class lesson therefore giving every child the opportunity to learn the basics in this instrument. Each class will have a block of 6/7 lessons meaning that each child will have use of the same school recorder for the whole of that session. The recorders will then all be thoroughly washed and disinfected ready for the next class. Each child will also be taught some basic skills in glockenspiel and handbell playing, as well as a weekly singing session, also with Miss Taylor.

Autumn Term – Fox, Spring Term – Badger, Summer Term – Hedgehogs.

Times tables

By the end of Year 2, the children should know the facts for the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. We will be using these facts regularly in lessons and test knowledge frequently (generally on a Friday), so would appreciate your support in practising these weekly with your child at home.

Library

Sessions for each class are on the following days:

Badgers - Tuesday

Foxes - Tuesday

Hedgehogs – Thursday

Please ensure that your child brings their clearly named library folder and their library book into school with them on this day so that they can return their book and choose a new one.

Homework

Homework will usually be set weekly for your child. We would appreciate it being returned on the following Monday morning but do understand that weekends are busy and it is not always possible to complete everything by this time! So, if you are particularly busy, homework sent on a Friday needn't be handed back until the following Wednesday. We expect homework to be completed to school standard in **pencil**, with the child's name written on it clearly so that it can then be marked. Notes from parents where children have struggled are always useful as they help us to keep a true assessment of your child's progress.

Staffing

Badger class will be taught by Mrs Tandy, generally, on Thursdays.

In Year 2, we are very fortunate to be supported by Mrs Meryon, Mrs Lindsay and Mrs Satterthwaite. Teacher planning, preparation and assessment time is covered by Mrs James, Mrs Edwards and Mrs O'Leary. Your child may be supported within the lesson or in small groups outside of the classroom by any of these adults throughout the course of the year. Occasionally, we may ask for some additional support from you at home via a booster slip in your child's book bag. We recognise family life can be busy and children are often tired after a long day at school, however a quick 5-10 minutes consolidating a specific area of learning can make all the difference in the following day's lesson.

Helpers

During the year we shall also be asking for support with school visits. **If you would like to help with these, please ensure that you have an up to date DBS check with the school and contact your child's class teacher by email via the school office or a letter.**

Many thanks and we look forward to the year ahead!

Mrs Coley, Mrs Hanson & Mrs Ruby