



St. Alphege C. E. Infant School

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

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Year Two Newsletter September 2020

Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to school for everyone! 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, 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. **We will be sending your child home with two reading books on a Monday. These books should be read throughout the week, using lots of discussion and comprehension skills. They will be replaced with a new book on a Friday for your child to read over the weekend.**

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 practice 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 practice, 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. 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 Year 1 and Year 2 words will be sent home next week and we would appreciate your support in rehearsing the list throughout the year. We will test children on these words in school frequently and continually assess their ability to read and spell them independently. Additionally, like last year, the children will have access to Spelling Shed where they can practise spellings through fun activities.

Music in Year 2

Miss Taylor will be teaching 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 handbell playing, as well as a weekly singing session (appropriately delivered to comply with Covid regulations), also with Miss Taylor. Recorder lessons will be as follows:

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, 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

In the near future your child will be bringing home a library book, please keep this at home to enjoy and return on the day allocated for your child's class. These books will be 'quarantined' before being issued again.

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

In Year 2, we are very fortunate to be supported by Mrs Meryon, Mrs Lindsay and Mrs McArdle. Teacher planning, preparation and assessment time will also be covered by Mrs Stocks, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Tandy. 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

Unfortunately, we are currently unable to accommodate helpers in school. When this changes, we will notify you in the hope that some of you would like to support us!

Many thanks and we look forward to the year ahead!

Mrs Coley, Mrs Hanson, Mrs Butler & Mrs Ruby

