



Year 2 Welcome Letter

Dear Parents / Carers

I am delighted to be able to spend another year with the children in year 2.

Listed below is some information to ensure we make a good start to the school year.

Reading

In order for your child to progress in this important area, it is necessary to hear your child read every day. As well as hearing your child read, you will need to question your child on the contents of their book. Please sign the Reading Record when you have heard your child read. Re-reading books is an important part of learning to read aiding both fluency and comprehension. Your child may bring a book home that they have already read to read again. This does not mean that they are 'struggling' or being 'held back'. If you feel that your child has not fully understood what they have read to you, feel free to put a note in their Reading Record, asking to keep the book another night. Reading books and records will be collected in and checked daily. Please feel free to note any queries, concerns or comments in their Reading Record as well. If your child has read a book at home of their own choosing, I am always keen to know what they have enjoyed! Each child will read with me at least once a week. This will usually be as part of a guided reading group. Guided reading develops a range of reading assessment focuses, and encouraged discussion of books in detail, developing essential comprehension skills as the children begin to move from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn.'

Spellings

The children will begin a spelling programme called Read Write Inc Spelling. This programme builds on the Read Write Inc Phonics programmes used in EYFS and Year 1. Your child will take part in a daily spelling lesson, including reading and writing sounds and words. Their weekly spellings will be linked to the Year 2 common exception words and spelling rules that your children will be learning that week. When your child begins to take home weekly spellings, please support them in learning these. It is best for children to learn these from memory, not by copying. Therefore, please encourage your child to 'look, cover, write, check'. It is also very useful to discuss any spelling rules or patterns that you notice or tips you have for remembering certain words. Please see the link 'Spelling National Curriculum' for more information of the spelling rules and common exception words (known in school as 'red words') that Year 2 learn.

Handwriting

Handwriting homework will be given out on a Monday and will need to be returned by the Wednesday of that week. Once the children are familiar with the expectations and have practiced the correct formation and sizing of individual letters, we will begin the Year 2 programme.

When practicing handwriting, please ensure that:

- Your child sits correctly at a table. They need to be 'tucked into' the table, feet on the floor, supporting arm leaning on the paper rather than in their lap or propping up their head.
- Their pencil is reasonably sharp and not too short.
- You monitor their handwriting to ensure that they practice the correct formation. Incorrect formation reinforces habits that are difficult to change.
- The sizing of their letters matches the example (e.g. a tall letter such as a 'h' is taller than a letter such as an 'e')

Mathematics – Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFS)

Each half term the children will be focusing on securing key skills or facts. The skills will be practiced in every session. It is important that the children are given opportunities to practice these at home so as to allow them to fully embed the skill. Each half term there will be an information sheet detailing the skill or facts and guidance on how you can support this at home.

Homework

In addition to daily reading and weekly spelling and handwriting, your child will be given some work to be completed and returned by the following Monday. Written instructions will be provided with the work if needed. Please ensure that your child writes their name on their homework if it is a paper copy. Weekend homework usually consist of English or Mathematics homework, but may also include other subjects. Mathematics homework will usually consist of times tables practice using Time Table Rock Start and KIRFS – please see separate letters for information on these. Homework may be sent home as a hard copy or posted on Seesaw.

End of Key Stage Assessments

As your child's teacher, I am responsible for judging the standards your child is working at in English, Mathematics and Science by the end of Key Stage 1. To help inform these judgements, pupils sit National Curriculum tests in English and Mathematics, commonly called SATs. These tests are a tool for teacher to help them measure your child's performance and identify their needs as they move into Key Stage 2. They also allow teachers to see how your child is performing against nationally expected standards. I will use the results from these tests, along with the work your child has done throughout the year, to assess your child's attainment at the end of Key Stage 1. These teacher assessment judgements will be reported to you by the end of the summer term. Children in school are unaware of these assessments and they are carried out without any undue pressure on any child.

Unlike other year groups, nationally reported levers separate objectives into 'working towards', 'working at' and 'working at a greater depth' attainment groups. Please see the link 'End of Key Stage One Teacher Assessment Frameworks' for more information. I will provide more information on end of Key Stage 1 assessments during the first Year 2 parents' evening, but please feel free to speak to me prior to his if you would like more information.

PE

Our PE day is a Tuesday; however, the children will need their kits in school all week. Kits should be clearly labeled.

Wider Curriculum

Please refer to and retain each termly curriculum letter that will give you information of how you can help and encourage your child with their education during their time in Year 2

We will use our class webpage to communicate information to you over the course of this academic year. The class page will be updated with key information, photographs, and examples of work. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via the email address below.

Year2_wul@emmausmac.com

I look forward to another happy and productive year with your child.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Morgan
Year 2 Class Teacher