

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year. We look forward to getting to know you and your children. Mrs Rean will teach Class 2 in the mornings, with the support of Mrs Hinder, while in the afternoons Mrs Hinder will be the class teacher, supported by Mrs Bisley.

Timetable

P.E. lessons will take place on **Friday** afternoons so your child will need to come to school wearing a **named** P.E. kit and trainers or daps every Friday. If your child wears trainers with laces, they should be able to tie shoe laces independently. Some of each week's P.E. will take place outside so children will need to be dressed for the weather conditions. A reminder that the school P.E. kit is as follows:

- Royal blue sweatshirt
- Royal blue round necked t-shirt, Blue polo t-shirt or White polo t-shirt
- Black tracksuit bottoms, Black shorts, Black leggings (long, mid or short) or Black skort
- Black or white trainers or daps

Please note that occasionally whole school events will lead to P.E. being on a different day of the week. As soon as we know rearranged dates, we will let you know.

In Year 2, all the children learn the recorder so please provide your child with a recorder. Your child will need their recorder in school every **Thursday**.



Key Dates

The annual Curriculum Evening takes place on **Wednesday 18th September** at 6pm, and we will use the evening to share information about how we teach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in Year 2, as well as talking about the National Curriculum assessments which take place in Year 2.

On **Friday 20th September** between 2.30pm and 3.10pm, parents are invited to 'stay and play' in our exciting new playtime addition, the Playpod.

On **Monday 30th September**, between 9.00 and 9.30 am, we will be holding a Parent Workshop, looking at spelling and reading in Year 2.

On **Tuesday 15th October**, at 9.00 am, we would like to invite you to an assembly to share our work from this term.

Topic

Our first topic for the year is 'From across the sea' and focuses on Jamaica, as well as the poetry of Benjamin Zephaniah. We will be looking at some of the geography, reading Jamaican traditional tales and comparing Jamaica in the 20th Century with Ramsbury in the 20th Century. We will also be learning about the voyage of The Windrush from Jamaica to Britain in 1948. In **Art**, we will be comparing hot and cold colours, studying the artwork of Caribbean artists such as Allan Johnson. In **Music**, we will be listening to Calypso and Reggae music, echoing rhythms and singing the songs.



In **Maths**, our focus will be on understanding place value so that children know that 63 is six 'tens' and three 'ones', as well as 60 and 3. We will then use that knowledge to add and subtract numbers to 100. We will also look at using number bonds for numbers to 10 to help us to add and subtract two-digit numbers. **You can help by:** helping your child to recall addition facts for single-digit numbers, such as 6 + 3 or 8 + 2.

In **English**, we will be learning a journey story and a story with good and bad characters before using these as a model for our own writing. The focus will be on using adjectives and adverbs to write descriptively and using a variety of punctuation correctly. Our weekly spellings this term focus on learning to spell the

Common Exception Words all children are expected to spell correctly by the end of Year 2.

You can help by: asking your child to check their spelling of any of these common words when they are writing at home.

In weekly Guided Reading sessions, children will be answering questions about what they read, including inference questions, asking children to interpret the text.

You can help by: asking your child why they think a character in a story acted as they did.

Our **Science** topic is about "Materials". We will be identifying and comparing the suitability of various materials for particular uses and how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. We will focus on comparing construction materials used in the poorer areas of Jamaica and our own buildings in the village.

Homework

In Year 2 there will be Maths and English homework every week, given out on a Friday and to be returned by the following Wednesday. For Maths, this may be playing a Maths game with your child or completing a practical activity to back up the learning in class. Once we have started our work about multiplication, this will include learning times table facts. Your child will shortly be bringing home a pack of Maths games to be used for homework. **A lot of time has gone into the preparation of these packs so please make sure that you keep the pack together so that it can be returned complete at the end of the school year for use by another child the following year.** In English, homework may consist of a discussion about a given topic or a short piece of writing about a given theme. Every few weeks, a task will be set in which the homework is then displayed in the classroom and this may be a Maths or English task or it may be topic or art/DT based.

Your child should still be reading at home **every day** and you should sign the reading record book every time you read with your child. In Year 2, the main focus of reading at home is a discussion about what has been read so that you can check your child's understanding of what he or she has read. As well as bringing home a reading book, your child will also bring home a book from the school library every week. This can be shared with you or they may want to read it independently.

Every child will have spellings to learn each week, linked with our daily Phonics and Spelling lessons. I will send home a Spelling book and children should use this to practise spelling the week's words within **sentences**, so please help your child to create some sentences out loud before he or she independently writes down the sentences. Spellings will come home on a Monday and need to be learned by the following Monday.

To encourage children to complete their homework, every child who reads at least 5 times a week, writes sentences to practise spellings and returns their **Homework book by Wednesday** is able to play the class game of Homeworkopoly. This game has some rewards including small treats in class or the chance to choose your own homework for a week. **Spelling books** and **Reading Record books** will be checked every **Monday** so please make sure that they are in school on that day.

If your child does not bring home the week's spellings or homework, both can be found on the school website.

Routines



Please send your child to school with a named water bottle and waterproof coat every day. We will be going outside in both dry and wet weather and the Ramsbury microclimate can be very changeable!

We look forward to a successful year with the children. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to pop in for a chat.

Mrs Rean and Mrs Hinder