

Dear Year 2 Children and Parents,



Firstly, let us start with a heart-felt welcome back! We are all delighted to welcome you back to school and hope that you managed to stay safe and well during lockdown. Obviously things in school are a little different now and we have routines in place to ensure that the classroom and school is a safe environment for us to work and learn in.

This year we are lucky to have 3 members of staff in Year 2: Mrs Baskerville (teaching Monday - Wednesday afternoon), Mrs Bladon (teaching Wednesday afternoon - Friday) and Mrs Harrop (teaching assistant Monday - Friday). Please be assured that throughout the year we will be working together very closely as a team to ensure consistency and the absolute best for you all.

As you will know from Mrs Berry's letter to you at the end of the summer term, the timings of the school day are changing for lots of us. Please can I remind you that in Year 2, children need to be arriving at school between **8:40am and 8:55am**, remembering to follow social distancing guidelines. Year 2 children and parents will need to enter through the blue gate beside Mrs Berry's office and walk to the back classroom door we will be waiting to welcome you straight into the classroom.

At the end of the day, please remember that timings have also changed a little. In order to follow government guidelines and limit the number of people gathering on the school site, we have a collection window between **3pm and 3:15pm**. We ask that an adult collects from the rear classroom door. Please remain at the top of the steps and we will send your child out to you.

Please can I also remind you that PE kits should be brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. In Year 2, we have PE on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. PE kit must be in a named bag and on the children's peg. Due to current restrictions, we will be having PE outside unless the weather is horrendous therefore you may wish to send a warm jumper in too.



Our topic for this half term is '**Twisted Tales**' in which we will be looking at alternative versions of traditional tales such as Little Red Riding Hood and The Gingerbread Man. You may wish to support your child with this topic by building up their familiarity with traditional tales by reading a selection of them to your child as bedtime stories!

## TOPIC HOME LEARNING!

To link with our topic, you will receive a home learning grid outlining a selection of different tasks to be completed before the end of this half term. The grid consists of 4 columns with 4 different activities. Please choose a different task for your child to complete each week

You do not need to complete all of the activities in your home learning book but can present them however you choose - posters, models, leaflets etc. Towards the end of the half term we will then have a day where you will need to bring all of your topic work in and we will share it together as a class.

Please do feel free to ask if you are unsure or need any support with the activities. Have fun!

## SPELLINGS

Every week the children will have 10 spellings to learn. Five of these will be from the statutory curriculum spelling list for Year 1/2. The remaining five spellings will be on rules taught that week during spelling lessons. For example, 'n' spelt 'kn' or 'gn.' The children's spellings will included as part of the PIP letter each Friday and their test will take place on the following Friday.

## TIMES TABLES

Your child has a login for Times Tables Rocks Stars (TTRS) and can use this to practise their 2, 5 and 10 times tables at home.



## MATHS & ENGLISH

Each week there will be maths and English home learning set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday. We will be introducing IXL, which is an interactive online learning platform, to support our English and Maths homework. This is in order to minimise potential contamination with resources moving between home and school on a regular basis. We will be sending more information out shortly to support you and your child with accessing this at home.



## READING

In addition to the set home learning we cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading. The children should be reading at least five times per week. We will be sending out books and journals next week and your child will be assigned a day in which to bring these in to enable us to change books.

## READING CHALLENGE

At St Augustine's, we believe that reading is an essential skill for all children and we hope that they enjoy reading for pleasure. Our 'Reading Challenge' will continue this year, with the aim, to encourage children read aloud at home to an adult, develop their fluency and their

love of reading! When a child achieves 30 'reads' this success will be shared in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday and children awarded with a special reading star badge. These badges can be worn proudly on their school jumpers! Additional badges can be won at 60 'reads', 100 'reads' and 150 'reads'.

We would like a 'read' to mean around 15-20 minutes of sharing a book with an adult.

1 'read' = 1 day.

It still counts as 'a read' even if they haven't finished the whole book. Please use the yellow reading records to record when your child has read at home, these will be monitored by staff.

Thank you for your support and hope that all children make super progress over the year to become happy, enthusiastic and more fluent readers.

### **PIP LETTERS**

This year, we will be going paperless with our PiP letters. All home learning expectations and an outline of what we have been learning across the week will be outlined on this letter and it will be uploaded on the Year 2 class tab on the school website every Friday.

### **MEET THE TEACHER**

Normally we would hold a 'Meet the Teacher' evening in early September for you to come into the classroom and discuss the new routines and expectations of the new year group. Sadly, due to government guidelines, these will not be held in person. However, we will be uploading a PowerPoint presentation onto the 'Year 2' class page area of the school website on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September for your reference. This will hopefully answer questions that you may have about the new school year. If you have any further questions, please do feel free to contact the school and arrange a time to meet and discuss any queries or concerns.

We are very much looking forward to this year and thank you in advance for your support. After what has been an unprecedented year so far, we are excited to get started in what will be a challenging but exciting year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Baskerville    Mrs Bladon    Mrs Harrop