

Welcome to Year Two

Dear parents/carers,

Now that we have given your children time to settle into our new routines, we would like to share more information with you about year two. We would ordinarily operate an open-door policy and warmly welcome parents into the classroom to see your child's learning environment and to answer any questions. As this is not currently possible we hope the following will be helpful in understanding how things work in year two as we are aware that not all children are keen to talk about the details of their day!

As you may know, we are a job share team. Mrs Fitzpatrick will be in class from Monday to Thursday, with Mrs Hey teaching the class on Monday afternoons. Mrs Savage teaches on Fridays and Mrs Mawson, who has worked with many of your children before, will be supporting both Venus and Mars class across the week as our Teaching Assistant.

Start of the Day

We now have a well established morning routine which includes washing hands and a morning task to accommodate our staggered start times. All Mars Class children have a named pebble which they use to 'check-in' how they are feeling each morning. This is linked to a wonderful book called 'The Colour Monster' which explores feelings and links them to colours. We are then able to quietly catch up with any children who have shown they are feeling sad, angry, worried or a mixture of feelings each morning to check if there is anything we can do to support them.



Behaviour

In Mars Class we follow the whole school policy which is to use a daily chart to encourage and celebrate positive behaviour and attitude to learning. Each child has a named rocket and they receive extra team points for moving up the chart and a special certificate for reaching the glittery, silver planet. Children are given a reminder if they are not following the school rules of 'ready, respectful, safe' and if there is no change, their rocket moves down. All children are positively encouraged to work hard to move their rocket back up. In the small number of instances where this does not happen, we will speak to parents to let you know the behaviour focus we will be working on to support your child.

Curriculum

A Mars Class newsletter will be sent out each half term to give you a brief overview of the learning; this half-term's newsletter is now on the class page of the website. A more comprehensive curriculum can be found on our school's website which we are currently adding to.

Reading

We can already see that we have a class of avid readers, which is wonderful because as teachers we are hugely passionate about reading! Our classroom has books in every corner and your children have enjoyed exploring some new stories, poetry collections and non-fiction texts. Each year group now has a class focus author and in Mars



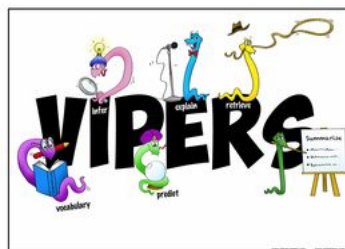
Class it is Roald Dahl. We have a commitment of reading a class novel for pleasure for at least 10 minutes every day (currently George's Marvellous Medicine). Please support your child in reaching the 'golden 20 minutes' of daily reading by sharing their home reading/library books with them for an additional 10 minutes



(or more!) Research shows this commitment makes a significant difference to your child's reading ability which is crucial for all other subjects. Reading books will be changed on Mondays only; this is to limit the number of times book bags need to be sent to and from school. The longer library book issued to your child only needs to be sent in once you have finished reading. Any additional home reading can be recorded in your child's reading record. We love to know what exciting books they have been enjoying. If you or your wider family have any good quality children's books you no longer need, please consider donating them to us!

In Y2 we no longer have 'guided reading' sessions in small groups. Instead, we have whole class reading sessions which focus on **word reading** as well as **comprehension**. Comprehension is crucial in Y2 and beyond as children become increasingly fluent and independent readers. Lessons focus on 6 key areas of comprehension:

- V - Vocabulary
- I - Inference
- P - Prediction
- E - Explain
- R - Retrieve
- S - Sequence



We call our learning 'Reading VIPERS'. A copy of VIPER questions to help with comprehension questions when reading at home will be sent home when books are changed next week. Any children still needing additional phonics/1:1 reading will be supported accordingly.

For your information, the government advises that the following books represent the reading levels expected by the end of Y2:

Working at the expected standard:

- The Smartest Giant in Town - Julia Donaldson
- Winter's Child - Angela McAllister
- Come Down, Golden - Diana Noonan
- The Shopping Basket - John Burningham

Working at greater depth:

- George's Marvellous Medicine - Roald Dahl
- Fantastic Mr Fox - Roald Dahl
- Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire - JK Rowling
- The Beginning of the Armadillos - Just So Stories - Rudyard Kipling
- The Sound Collector (poem) - Roger McGough
- The Tear Thief - Carol Ann Duffy

