

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



A photograph of a wooden bookshelf filled with children's books. The books are organized into sections labeled 'picture books', 'fiction', and 'non-fiction'. Visible titles include 'The Very Noisy Night', 'Dogger', 'Roald Dahl', 'The Gruffalo', and 'The Wind in the Willows'. The books are arranged in a way that shows their spines, which are colorful and feature various illustrations. The labels are on dark blue background with white text. The bookshelf is made of light-colored wood and is set against a wall with a blue and white patterned border.

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:

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

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

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

Spelling

Children in Y2-Y6 follow the Purple Mash scheme of work to learn spelling rules. This consists of short activities across the week to learn each new rule. In addition, we focus on 3 common exception words each week (these are words which are harder to sound out as they may not follow regular phonics patterns). A list of these rules and common exception words has already been shared with you and can be found on the class page of the website. You will find 10 words which are examples of words which follow the week's rule. Seven of these will be chosen at random alongside the 3 common exception words (in red) to make a total of 10 words as part of our spelling test each Monday. Please support your child to learn these at home. Ask your child the different spelling strategies they know to learn their spellings; so far we have practised spelling pyramids, dotted writing and next week we will learn rainbow writing! As we use the Purple Mash spelling scheme, you will now find that your child has a spelling quiz set each week to help practise spelling at home. To access this please use the same Purple Mash login information which was sent home to access learning during lockdown.

SATs

As you may be aware, at the end of Y2 each child will complete statutory assessment tests (SATs) in reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS). These will take place in May and the Government has already committed to these going ahead for 2020-2021. They will form part of our normal classroom learning and the children will become accustomed to these tests through similar prior learning using past papers and other resources. More information on SATs will be shared in the spring term.



Supporting Learning at Home

Daily reading, spelling support and mental maths form the core of home learning in Year 2. You will shortly receive a letter about Google Classroom which we will be using to share links to games and activities you can play at home to support your child.

If you have any questions please send an email to the school office and one of us will phone you back if you need to speak to us directly.

Warm regards,
Mrs Fitzpatrick & Mrs Savage