



Welcome to Kingfisher Class



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone and to the start of Year 2! I have been so pleased to see all the children come in with big smiles on their faces and happy to be back with their friends. Year 2 is a wonderful year with lots of learning and fun activities along with the chance to develop further independence and start to take on greater responsibilities.

Teaching staff

I will be teaching Kingfisher Class this year, with the support of Mrs Stevens, Mrs Farren, Mrs Adil and Mrs Freedman. During my planning time, the class will be taught by Mrs Dalglish and on a Wednesday, Mrs Ekoku and Mrs Jewitt will be teaching the class.

PE

PE and Games lessons are on **Tuesdays (Outdoor) and Thursdays (Indoor)**. Children **come to school in PE kits on their PE days**. Plain, black hoodies/sweatshirts should be worn. We will, of course, inform you in advance of any changes to our PE days.

Reading

In a change to the Year 1 procedure, in Year 2 the children take responsibility for changing their own reading books, once they have progressed past the phonic readers. As much as possible, they should be heard to read each night and this needs to be recorded in their reading diaries, noting the date, page number reached, and a comment on your child's reading or discussions about the text.

Shared reading and discussion of stories is crucial in developing a wider understanding of the world around us and as the year progresses, should begin to become the focus of your home reading sessions rather than the actual word decoding. Please encourage your child to read with expression, and to give opinions about the characters in the story, the plot, and what might happen next. Reading diaries will be checked regularly by myself or a teaching assistant.

In class, we will develop reading skills through group, whole class and 1:1 readings and will focus on fluency, phrasing, retrieval of information and inference.

Spellings

Following our move to the CUSP Spelling Programme, children no longer bring home a weekly spelling list to learn for a test. Instead, they are explicitly taught a spelling concept over a 2-week period and bring home a practice sheet based on either the same concept or revision of previous learning to complete once a week (Fridays).

Maths

Please help your child with their mental recall of numbers to increase their confidence and speed. This could include counting forwards and backwards from a given number, breaking numbers into tens and ones, bonds to 10 and 100 or simple addition and subtraction problems. These quick-recall activities are great for long car journeys or bath times! It is also of great help to complete lots of practical real-life maths e.g. measuring when cooking and baking, handling money and looking at shapes in the world around us. Please also work on telling the time at home, Year 2 is a great time for a first watch! The children can also practise their maths skills on the Mathseeds website. Logins to follow.

Homework

Each **Thursday**, your child will receive spelling and maths homework, **to be returned by the following Tuesday**. It should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete both tasks. There will also be an independent learning project set in the Spring term: more details will be provided nearer the time.

Children are encouraged to bring in any relevant resources from home related to our learning, or achievements for sharing and celebrating as necessary, however there is no regular “show and tell”.

Equipment

The children only need a book bag or a small rucksack to carry their belongings otherwise the cloakroom gets very crowded!

As advised before the summer holidays, the children will not need to bring a pencil case – all stationary will be provided by the PTA.

Welcome Meeting

Parents are invited to our Welcome Meeting on Thursday 25th September at 4.30pm. This will be a chance to hear more about the curriculum and the learning focus for the year. Parents will be able to join the meeting in-person in the classroom, or can join via TEAMS. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer supervision for children during the meeting time, so joining on TEAMS may be an option if there are any problems with childcare.

If you have any worries or queries, please do come and see me, or if easier send an email – I know lots of issues tend to come up at bedtime, so please do message then, I may not respond straight away but I will do my best to read and note any problems ready to deal with the next day.

Best wishes

Mrs Amy Russell

Year 2 (Kingfisher) Class Teacher

year2@tatsfieldtl.co.uk