

Learning links for Year Two parents.

In Year Two this year will be Mrs Young and Mrs Barrick, with Mrs Hood covering PPA time for me. We are a close knit team that work together to care for and teach your children. I will be teaching on Tues, Wed, Thursday and Friday, Mrs Hood will be teaching ICT/music on Thursday afternoon and Mrs Barrick will be teaching on Monday.

In our class we are keen for the children to become resilient when learning. We are working on having a growth mindset that doesn't give up when faced with challenges but carries on trying until we master it. We don't say I can't do it but I can't do it yet! Don't be surprised if your child celebrates making a mistake as we will be encouraging the children to see mistakes as a way of learning and improving what we know! The children will be encouraged to use their learning values and our aim is to make them as independent as possible so they don't rely on someone else to give them the answer or always take the easy option but challenge themselves to develop further.

English

Our English curriculum is based on The Power of reading. This is a text based scheme of work that aims to inspire children's writing. Our Power of reading texts are: The Emperor's egg in the Autumn term, Vlad and the Great Fire of London in the Spring term and Traction man in the Summer term. The units include writing, poetry, music, Art and Drama and we use all of these areas to bring the texts alive and to broaden the children's vocabulary and experiences of different texts. The children love the texts and some of the writing we have had has been outstanding. We also use the texts to teach grammar wherever possible but will also teach stand alone

lessons if needed. We are embedding cursive handwriting into the curriculum this term with the aim of getting all children to be using it confidently by the end of the year. We will send home sheets, when the children have been introduced to the letter formation, showing how each letter is formed so parents can practise formation and not confuse children by using a different style. There will be handwriting homework from time to time either on printed sheets or via our class page on the school website. We are using Rocket phonics scheme to teach Phonics. We will have a daily half hour phonics lesson that will incorporate reading, comprehension and spelling. It is a text based scheme so the children see the sounds within words and apply their knowledge in writing also.

Maths

To begin each day we complete Fluent in 5. It consists of 3 Maths questions that revise and overlearn concepts the children have been learning. We ask the children to explain how they worked the equations out and then if it is needed complete a mini teach to ensure children have understood the concepts. It has helped to improve our children's mathematical reasoning and their confidence to use differing strategies to work things out.

We will be teaching maths using a problem solving based approach. I have used this way of teaching maths with my class for a number of years. The problem solving method encourages children to discover and learn in a practical way first and when they are ready they move on to recording and independent work. The children love it and we are constantly amazed by the way they grasp concepts we are teaching and add their own knowledge and methods of working things out! We always ask the children to explain how they have worked out a problem before we let them tell us the answer. This is a useful skill

moving forward for answering test questions and showing your working out in a written form.

You can have a look at what areas we will be teaching on our class page in the Wisdom, Knowledge and skills document. We will be encouraging the children to work independently and find the best ways to work out problems and find answers. We encourage them to decide what strategy and apparatus would be best to help them. We encourage collaboration and teamwork and getting unstuck independently where appropriate. The children will work in mixed ability groups and will have Maths talking partners.

Science

In Science we will be approaching our learning through a problem solving approach. For example in our topic Materials I show the children my shoe that has lost its sole and the children have to test materials to see which would be the best material for a new sole. We have great fun testing how waterproof these materials are ! We approach Science in a very practical way and love getting our hands dirty and making a mess wherever possible! The topics we will be covering will be Materials, Humans and other animals, Plants and Living things and their habitats.

Foundation subjects

We aim to teach our foundation subjects ie History, Geography, DT, Music and Art through topics. This allows us to use a more rounded approach to learning, allowing the children to see connections between subjects and not study subjects in isolation. We teach a 'mind-friendly' way of learning using all of the different ways children learn, visual, oral and kinaesthetic. Our topic for this term is Antarctica , in Spring it is The Great Fire of London and in Summer it is Our Wonderful world. Within these topics we will cover

aspects of Geography, History, Science, Design Technology, Music, Art and ICT. If a subject is not covered within one topic then it will be covered within the others.

Weather allowing we will be using Forest school to enhance the children's learning. Last year the children completed art, dt, maths and English tasks using our beautiful surroundings and a whole lot of team work and collaboration was in evidence too! If you have an old pair of wellies or trainers that you don't mind sending in to stay in school, that would be great as it can get muddy out there at times.

R.E

Mrs Barrick will be teaching R.E on Monday and she will be using Questful R.E. scheme, starting with The Bible this half term.

Homework

Each week the children will be given reading homework to complete. I am going to be sending home the books as and when the children bring them into school, as they did in Year One. The children can choose their own books within the level they are reading and this means they can read more often and enjoy a wide array of books. Please try to read with your children as often as possible and ensure they change their book at least once a week. If you could write the name of the book and the date in the reading record that would be really helpful. I will acknowledge comments with a tick unless a response is needed and then I will either write back or speak to you at home time or by phone call if necessary.

The children will also be given Maths, Science, Handwriting and Topic homework as and when it is needed. For most homework I use the Purplemash platform, available through our class page to set

homework and the children can log in and access activities to help support their learning. I have sent home their passwords and login for Purplemash and have set some tasks to start them off. I will often show the children these homework challenges in class so they are able to confidently complete them at home. Please let us know if you don't have access to a computer and we will endeavour to help.

Certificates and Rewards

We believe in Year Two that it is important that the children have instant rewards and lots of them. This may take the form of a sticker, a superstar or verbal praise. (A high five or a hug sometimes too!) The children collect superstars to gain certificates. 20= bronze, 40= silver, 60= gold and 80 = headteacher's award. We have role model stickers every day that encourage children to show others how to behave. The children love these and will try their best to be a role model! We also have an award for a role model table for the group that are working really hard and focussing on their tasks. Two children each week will be chosen to receive a Learning values certificate , when we feel they have demonstrated our learning values and two children will be chosen to receive a Fruit of the Spirit award when they demonstrate our schools values. The key message is that by rewarding good behaviour and praising children when they do the right thing, they are less likely to want to make the wrong choices.

Medical Needs

If your child needs medication during the year it should be taken to the school office where a **request for school to administer medication form** must be filled in. Children with chronic / serious or long-term medical issues have a sheet in the staffroom with their photograph and specific treatment required. All staff are required to be familiar with who these children are and what response is

required. Please ensure that any inhalers are in date and an asthma passport has been completed. I can give you one of these if you haven't already filled one in.

P.E.

All of the children are required to participate in PE lessons. This half term our P.E. lesson will be on a Thursday afternoon so the children will need to come into school in their P.E kits on this day. Please can they wear blue shorts or joggers and a plain white or Dawpool logo t shirt and trainers. They can wear their cardie or jumper with their kit. No football strips please!

Healthy Eating

School is still promoting healthy eating and with this in mind we request that children bring healthy snacks for morning break time such as fruit or have toast. They don't need to bring in snacks for the afternoon as we have our fruit and milk at story time, but if they want to they can bring in a piece of fruit. Please no other types of snacks for the afternoon as we want to encourage the children to eat the fruit supplied. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Don't worry if your child comes home with water in their bottle, as we have refilled the bottles more than once. Please ensure all bottles are spill proof and clearly labelled with your child's name. There are lots of bottles that are similar or the same!

In Year Two we have wet play bags for when the weather does not permit us to go outside. They can contain puzzle books, small toys that can be played with on a table top, crayons, colouring books etc. No electronic games please. Please could these things be put into a pump bag that is clearly labelled on the outside with your child's name. The children can't wait for it to rain so they can play with their things!

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CLOTHING, BAGS AND BELONGINGS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME. (Especially drinks cups please!)

How to support your child at home-show class page

Each week there will be a timetable on our class web page that details the learning intentions we will complete to achieve these. Please take time to read this as it will give you a clue as to what the children are doing so you can chat to them about it. I know I had a boy who tells me nothing at all about school so I loved it when he was here and I could see what he was doing in school! There is also a section about Year Two Wisdom knowledge and skills which details what the children will be expected to know by the end of Year 2. I will sometimes put up videos, games or links to help support the children's learning and will tell them about these in school so they can look at them at home.

- Ensure that homework is completed.
- Read regularly. It doesn't have to be the schools reading book, any book that your child finds interesting is fine!
- Comparing and measuring the weight, length and capacity of objects. The children do this using standard units of measurements.
- Estimation of measures.
- Telling the time-o' clock, half past, quarter past, quarter to and to 5 minutes.
- Coin recognition, playing shop, giving change etc.

Please make an appointment to chat to us if you have any concerns or think there is information we need to know. We have an open door and any information you can give us enables us to fully care for your child and enables us to work as a team to support them.

Our aim throughout the year is to encourage your children to become independent learners, take ownership of their learning and

behaviour and have lots of fun! Hopefully the Year Two classroom will be a happy, safe and stimulating environment where your children will be able reach their full potential! We always say that we are your child's 'school Mummies' because we love and care for them whilst they are in school! Thank you for coming and we hope this whistle stop tour has given you an insight into Year Two!