



Welcome Newsletter - Year Two



September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year Two. We hope that you and your children have enjoyed the first few days in their new classes. We like to contact you early in the term to confirm some details about your child's transition, classroom organisation and home-school liaison.

Coming into School in the Morning

Please use the car park gates and use the cones as a guide as to where to drop off your child. The children will come into school through the gates, walk to their classroom and independently put their coat, book bag and water bottle away. They are also responsible for handing any letters or correspondence from home to their class teacher. Please remind them to take these out of their book bags. We will also reinforce this in class. If there are any changes to your pick-up arrangements or messages then please let the staff know.

Uniform

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform every day. This includes shoes and accessories. Long hair for both boys and girls should be tied back for school. Hair accessories must also be in school colours and we would ask that the recent craze for large fashion bows are not worn to school. If your child has pierced ears, then you need to have signed a disclosure form to allow the earrings to be worn in school each day and your child will need to be able to remove them for PE or to cover them up with tape. You will need to provide your own tape and this should be kept in their PE bag. The disclosure form is available from the school office. These are County Health and Safety requirements.

PE Kit

Our PE days are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit in school at the beginning of each half term. It will be sent home to be washed each school holiday. We will be doing outdoor PE throughout the year so please ensure your child has suitable plimsolls or trainers that fit correctly. We go out in all weathers, so school tracksuit bottoms are useful as well as socks if your child wears tights. If your child has long hair, please ensure that it is tied back. Please ensure that earrings are removed on PE days or taped as per the instructions above.

School Caps

Named school caps should be in school every day and kept in your child's tray or book bag. They will need to wear them for any visits out of school and when the weather is hot.

School Dinners

Your child will still have the same choice of healthy menu that they enjoyed last year. If your child has a packed lunch, please remember that we are a **nut free school** as we have several children and staff members with severe allergies. Please also remember to cut grapes in half lengthways. The menu will be posted on the school website and school meals need to be ordered online in advance. Please can you choose these meals with your child and remind them of what they have chosen. Unfortunately, these choices are unable to be changed on the day.

Fruit and Milk

The children will be able to enjoy a piece of fruit each day at morning play time. If you would like your child to have milk, it is available to order through 'Cool Milk' online. Links to 'Cool Milk' are on the school website or directly via www.coolmilk.com

Water Bottles

Please can you provide your child with a **clearly named** sports water bottle **filled only with water** to keep their brains hydrated and active for learning. Children can refill their water bottle in school. We encourage the children to take responsibility to drink regularly and to refill their water bottle when required.

Money

We are a cashless school. Any money that needs to come into school should be paid online through the school cash office. Links to the school cash office can be found on the school website. Please see Mrs Cable in the school office if you have any queries regarding this.

Celebrating Achievements

We welcome and celebrate children's achievements, certificates, trophies and medals from out of school activities in our weekly Friday Celebration Assembly. If your child has something to show then please ensure that these are brought in for the assembly.

Birthdays

We celebrate birthdays in school by singing to the children in class and at the celebration assembly on Friday. They also get the opportunity to choose a birthday card from their classmates. Regrettably, due to a number of allergies within the school, children are not allowed to bring in sweets or cakes to share with their friends - please save these for parties!

Reading Books

Reading books should come into school and go home each evening. Your help with reading at home is invaluable. Please record in their reading diary; the title, the date and the page that they have read to. We also welcome your comments. Your child will read once a week to either a teacher or a Learning Support Assistant. In order to move to the next stage, your child will need to be assessed by a member of the teaching staff against the reading assessment criteria. The teacher will make this decision; please be aware that if they move too quickly through the scheme and have not met their targets, they may need to re-read books again.

Assessment

In Year Two the children are assessed each half term against National Curriculum goals using an assessment system called 'Assertive Mentoring'. Judgements against the criteria are made through teacher assessment as well as evidence collected in your child's books. There is also a National Phonics Screening Test, which the children will take in the 2nd half of the Autumn term (due to COVID 19 this did not happen at the end of Year One). If they do not achieve the required score your child will re-sit the screening again in the Summer term of Year Two. At The end of Year Two the children will sit their Standard Assessment Tests. Information evenings regarding Assessment will be held later in the year.

Tapestry

We will continue to use Tapestry as a means of communication and you should have already received your log-in information. We will upload home-learning, new spellings and any other class-based information that may be relevant. All other information will continue to be sent via email from the school office. Tapestry will now be used for you to upload your child's home learning. We are trying to be an environmentally friendly school and reduce the use of paper.

Phonics and Spellings

There is a strong emphasis on reading and spelling. Children have a daily phonics session to support this. Each session has a reading and a spelling element. The children will also have spelling lists accessed via Tapestry which will be uploaded every 2 weeks. The spellings will be made up of the Year Two common exception words that they will need to be able to read and spell by the end of the academic year. At the end of each half term, your child will be sent home with a copy of the words that they know or the words that they need to practise. Your support with this would be appreciated and we would ask that you practice these with your child. The spellings will be sent home during the first few weeks of term.

Handwriting

At first the children are taught to write the individual letters and are then are taught how to join these using a lead-out. Part of the end of year assessment process for Year Two includes being able to form capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters. The children also need to show that they can use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters. Once a child has successfully and consistently shown they are able to do this they will get a handwriting certificate, badge and special handwriting pencil from Mrs Money. Please note that as long as they meet the above criteria they do not need to show that they can join their writing unless they are at this stage in the writing process.

Home Learning

Your child will receive a number of activities as part of their home learning:

- Reading books.
- Spellings sent home every 2 weeks via Tapestry.
- An 'Invitation to Learning' will be uploaded onto Tapestry at the beginning of every half term, with half a term to complete the activities.

- **Mathletics** - The children will have access to Mathletics and their log in will be the same. Logins will have been sent home but please contact us if you haven't already received it.

We appreciate that home life differs for each family and there is no pressure to complete all of the activities on the Invitation to Learning. However, as a minimum, we would expect your child to be reading and practising their spellings regularly. Your support with this is invaluable and has such a positive impact on your child's progress.

Important Dates

Further dates and school events will continue to be communicated with parents in a fortnightly newsletter from Mrs Money, emailed via School Comms, as well as being available on the school website.

The PTA has their own website www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofsandringham with event details on. Please do not hesitate to email the office with any queries, particularly during the first few weeks as the children settle. We hope that you and your children enjoy the year with us!

Mrs Hylton and Mrs Thomas