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**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Year 2 and the new school year. I will be holding a curriculum meeting for parents on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm** in the Year 2 classroom. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about our learning this year, general routines in the classroom and to ask questions about Year 2. Attached to this letter is an overview for our topic on Fairy Tales this term.

**Staffing:** Becky, Marie and Blanka will be our teaching assistant in Year 2 this year. Marie will cover my PPA time on a Friday with Becky. They will be teaching Art to the children.

**General routines:** Children may arrive at school at **8.45am** and can complete an activity such as handwriting, reading or maths before registration. If you need to drop your child off earlier, there is a breakfast club, which runs from 8.00 - 8.45am. The cost for each session is £2. Registration for school is at **8.55am** prompt. The Year 2 outside door will close at **9am** and after this, children will need to be signed in at reception. School finishes at **3pm**. It can get very squashy inside the classroom door, so please could you wait outside and I will send the children to you. I do like to make sure each child has been picked up, so this enables me to send the children off safely. If your child is going to a club after school, going home with a friend or being picked up by somebody different, please write it on the whiteboard outside the classroom. I can then check what the children are doing and remind them if they have forgotten. **No child will be released to another adult other than their parent/guardian unless a member of staff has been notified.** Please let the school know if you are going to be late so we can let your child know.

**PE:** Our PE lessons are on Monday morning and Friday afternoon. Children will need shorts and a change of t-shirt (or tracksuit bottoms in colder weather). As part of PE, we aim to teach good hygiene and we therefore ask that children change out of the clothes that they are wearing to school. Similarly, your child will require appropriate footwear, such as trainers or plimsolls. We cannot allow children to wear sandals or backless shoes for PE. Children must tie their hair back and remove any jewellery. It is useful if your child's PE kit is kept on their peg all week as occasionally we may have PE on a different day or they may simply need a change of clothes! Please make sure all PE clothes are labelled with your child's name. This term, Mr Wells will be teaching PE on a Monday morning and Jack will be teaching PE on a Friday. Stuart Wells is a PE coach who is working alongside Year 2 to develop the PE curriculum and train staff. This is further developed by Jack, a Sports Apprentice from Oxford Academy. This additional support ensures high quality Sports provision for the whole of KS1.

**Reading:** I aim to hear the children read every week. The children will also read independently every day and complete activities related to the books. Every child should bring their book bag to school **every** day. In their book bag they should have one reading book and one choice book from our class library. There should also be a yellow reading record book. Please only take two books at a time so there is plenty for everyone. Reading books can be changed in the morning or at the end of the school day, as often as needed. Please involve your child in changing their book as it is important for them to

have a personal choice in what they read. Most of our reading in school will be using Bug Club which is good at developing comprehension skills as well as reading ability. Your child can access these books at home on Active Learn and will be allocated a selection of book from the stage we are reading. Most of our focus in Year 2 will be on comprehension skills so it is important to leave time to discuss what the children have read. If you have any concerns about the stage that your child is on or their reading ability please let me know.

**Library:** We will visit the school library once a week on a Thursday so your child can choose a book to bring home. They can keep their book for a week or longer but please remind your child to bring their book back to school on Library day even if it is to renew it for another week.

**Homework:** In year 2 we do expect the children to spend about 10-15 minutes every day **reading** or sharing books with you at home either using Bug Club (on Active Learn) or by reading the books in their bookbag. Please help them to achieve this and record what they have read in their yellow reading record book. This helps build up a profile of reading over the year. As the year progresses the children should be able to do this themselves. If your child is still learning to read the KS1 high frequency words, I will also include them. These are the cloud words in the yellow reading diary. If you can practise reading these at home as often as possible during the week then I will check them during our following reading session and send more words as appropriate.

**Spellings** will be practised on a Tuesday. We will learn our new spelling patterns in school and words will be sent home. The following Tuesday these words will be tested and a new pattern introduced.

**Talk homework** will be sent home on a Friday for our writing sessions on a Monday afternoon. We don't expect the children to write anything down but it is beneficial if you talk to your child about the topic of the week as they have many more ideas for their writing.

**Maths** will also be sent home on a Thursday/Friday. Children have their own maths site on Active Learning and each week, I will load a new game which is related to our learning in class. These games are designed to practise the skill which has been taught during the week and help develop mental maths skills. The children should log into this site at least once a week or more often if possible. Please let me know if you have any problems with logging in or do not have access to a computer. There will also be a written maths activity or a problem which will be sent home in a homework book. Activities should consolidate learning from the week, so your child should be able to complete them with minimal support. However, it is good to share the activity as you will know what your child finds difficult and you could help them practise a skill or concept at home. **Please can homework books be returned to school by the following Tuesday.** Practical activities such as games and cooking always help with their maths skills as well.

**Tissues:** With the winter months rapidly approaching, I'm sure it will not be long before the coughs and colds start. If you could donate a box of tissues I would be very grateful. You would be amazed how many boxes get used up during this time!

**Water bottles:** Please could every child bring a **named** water bottle to school so they can have regular drinks during the day. Ideally these bottles need to be taken home every night for a wash!

**How you can help:** If you are able to help or would be interested in sharing your skills and experiences with the children, please do let me know. This could be on a set day each week or on an ad hoc basis. It is always much appreciated!

Finally, please do not hesitate to come and see me or any other member of staff in the class if any issues arise this term.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Pettitt (Year 2 Teacher)