



Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a lovely holiday and had an opportunity to rest and relax with friends and family wherever you spent your time – on the last day of term, the children were all very excited about their holiday plans, so I am really looking forward to hearing all about your adventures (whether local or in far-flung locations!) from them this week!

I am just writing with a few general updates and some information for you as we head into the new term. With the full introduction of the Read, Write Inc programme that we began trialling last half term (more information below), we have had to make some small adjustments to the daily timetable. Please find attached to this letter an updated timetable for your reference, along with the Year 2 curriculum plan for Term 2a. These documents can also be accessed on the school website.

**General routines:** Thank you for working hard to ensure that your child arrives on time each morning. Thank you also for letting us know promptly about any medical appointments you have arranged for your child and for letting the school know if your child is ill or unable to come to school. Please do make sure that you telephone, email or text the school office as soon as possible on **each** day of absence.

**Our lessons in Term 2a:** Over the course of this half of the term, our topic will be “Toys”. Our Science and independent writing sessions will be linked very closely to this topic in various ways.

**Early Work and Guided Group sessions:** Our Early Work (to be completed on arrival in the classroom each morning) will focus on practising maths skills this term. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly and is settled quickly to allow them to get the most out of these practice sessions. 15 mins each morning will have a great impact on their progress. In our Guided Group sessions, we will be focusing on reading comprehension skills and grammar.

**English:** This term, we will be starting our full Read, Write Inc programme across FSU and KS1. At the end of last term, after a 4-week intensive sound and phonics focus, your child was assessed and allocated to one of a series of smaller groups to provide them with very targeted, personalised teaching over the next half term. The children will be in mixed-age groups for an hour each day, targeted to their particular needs. The sessions will be based around a different short story at your child’s level each week and will include focused phonics, reading, spelling and writing tasks. We have already seen all children make lots of progress over the short trial period we had before Christmas and we are very excited about now introducing the full programme. We will be holding a KS1 meeting telling you all about the new programme in the next few weeks. Please look out for a separate letter with further information about this in due course. Meanwhile, do feel free to ask any questions and do bear with us as we all get used to the new routine.

**PE:** PE this term will continue to be on **Tuesday and Friday**. Your child will need to have a PE kit in school on both of those days. Please make sure your child has a t-shirt, shorts (or trousers and jumper for colder weather) and trainers with a good grip. If your child has longer hair, they will need to tie it back for PE lessons. This term, Stuart Wells will be teaching P.E. on a Tuesday and Hanna Roberts will be teaching P.E. on a Friday. I know some of you are very relaxed about clothes getting mucky during the school day (for which we are very grateful!) and that as a result, some children have not been changing for P.E. However, please could I ask for your support in providing a change of clothes for your child? This is particularly important if the weather is poor or if we are doing gymnastics (as, for example, safe use of the apparatus requires bare feet, legs and arms to ensure that the children have appropriate grip on the equipment).

**Reading:** Well done to all of those children (and families) who have now made reading a part of daily life! It has been such a pleasure to see the children’s happy faces each week as they have received their Daily Reader certificates and it was wonderful to be able to reward those who have been consistent in this reading with Book Worm certificates and pin badges to celebrate their commitment to success. Unfortunately, it appears that there are still a significant number of children in Year 2 who are not reading daily. Please could I ask that you make this a priority this term. It really has made a huge difference to the children who are doing it every day. Just 10 minutes each day is enough to have an impact. Please make sure you record your child’s reading each morning or evening in their yellow reading record and make sure it comes to school each day so that I can tick everyone off on my list. If your child reads entirely independently, please just sign and date their book to confirm that they have read.



St Barnabas Primary School • Hart Street • Oxford • O.  
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**Library:** We will continue to 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 Term 2a:

- **Talk homework:** As usual, this 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 please do take time to talk about the topic before Monday – it really does have a big impact on the quality of the children's writing if they come prepared.
- **Reading:** As before, we expect the children to spend about 10-15 minutes every day reading or sharing books with you at home either online using Bug Club (part of 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 and return it each day for checking. It would be great if we could match Year 1 and have everyone getting their Daily Reader certificates this term!
- **Spellings:** will be still taught and tested on a **Tuesday** and new spellings will be sent home on **Wednesday**. Please make sure spelling books come into school on Tuesday as it is very hard to ensure new spellings make it to you safely if we cannot stick them directly into books. In order to embed letter formation, handwriting and correct sentence construction (including consistent use of capital letters and full stops!), we would like to use homework to focus on practising basic writing skills. **We would like your child to spend 10 minutes practising writing each day.** We will use spelling homework to do this. Each day, your child should aim to write 2 different sentences using different spellings from their set spelling list and record them in their new Home Writing Book. They should work through their lists each day practising writing sentences with different words so that, over the course of the week, they will have written sentences that include each of their set words. On the final day before new spellings are set, they should try to write a little paragraph that includes each of their spellings (or at least 5 of their spellings if they are in the 10 spellings group). I will check their work each day (as with the reading diaries) and certificates will be presented to all 'Daily Writers'.
- **Maths:** will also be due in on a **Tuesday** but sent home on a **Wednesday** in the red Homework Books. This term, these will also focus on '10 minutes' idea. Your child will be given a worksheet that follows the same format each week. There will be 6 questions that cover the different maths objectives for Year 2. Your child might choose to tackle just one question a day or they may prefer to complete the whole sheet in one go. Either is fine. NB: as there will be a variety of questions each week, they may not always link directly to things we are covering in class on any given day. If your child is unsure how to complete a question, feel free to let them research online, ask family or friends. Discovering how to do something we don't already or immediately know how to do is very rewarding and it tends to stick in our minds, too!

I am always very grateful for offers of help and contributions of interests and expertise and would be very happy to welcome you to the classroom to help with, or lead, sessions. I have certainly been very grateful to those of you who have already done so. If you would be interested in coming in to help or if you, or anyone you know, has any skills or opportunities for visits related to our topics, please do come and speak to me.

Finally, as ever, please know that my door always remains open for you and your children. Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions or concerns. If I am not able to speak to you immediately, I would be very happy to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. Thank you for all you are doing to support your child's learning and to support the school.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Manley

Year 2 Class Teacher  
KS1 Coordinator



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