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Dear children, parents and carers,

4.09.23

Firstly, welcome back and welcome to Year 2! I hope you had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to an exciting and hardworking year in Class 2! We are writing to introduce ourselves and explain a little about Year 2. Some things will be similar to Year 1 but of course there will be new routines, topics, challenges and expectations now we are in Year 2!

Staff

Class 2 have two teachers and two teaching assistants! Miss Birtles teaches on Monday, Tuesday morning and Wednesday, and Miss Chapman teaches Tuesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday. Miss Fawcett supports the class on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and Mrs. Seton-Jones on Wednesday and Thursday. We will all use the same classroom routines to ensure consistency for the children. There will always be someone available just before and after school if you need to discuss anything regarding your child. You can ring up the school office to make an appointment or catch one of us at the school gate.

Rewards

Hard work and good behaviour are of course rewarded and celebrated! This is done each day by the chance to earn Dojos, and just as in Year 1, milestones are recognised with badges in **Good News assemblies** (which you are welcome to attend each **Thursday**). Each week the child who has earned the most dojos will get a prize! At the end of each week children will be rewarded with the Golden Time they have earned each day.

Children who struggle to choose appropriate behaviour for learning will have their behaviour discussed and a warning given. If the behaviour continues they will move their name onto the cloud to act as a reminder that their behaviour needs to change. If the behaviour continues they will move their name to the grey cloud and they will discuss their choices with an adult. If their name remains there at the end of the day they have not earned their Golden Time for that day and they will spend 5 minutes reflecting on the choices they made during Friday Golden Time. Children are always given the chance to change their behaviour and will move back to the sunshine and earn Dojos during the day if they decide to make good choices.

Children who consistently behave well are rewarded with a special treat afternoon if they earn all of their Golden Time for the term!

P.E.

The children will continue to have **PE** on a **Tuesday**. All children must come to school in **full PE kit** on this day. Full PE kit includes a **white t-shirt, blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms, and black pumps or trainers. Children should not wear any other sports wear.** Children can wear their school jumper throughout the day. Children need their hair tied up and we would prefer the children not to wear earrings. If this is not possible you must sign a consent form accepting full responsibility for any injury that occurs (available at the office) and please ensure your child wears small studs. **This year we would expect children to begin to learn how to tie their own shoe laces so get practicing at home!** Children who do not have full PE kit will not be allowed to take part in PE for safety.

Forest Schools

Year 2 will be taking part in **Forest Schools** in the summer term. We will send home a letter about this closer to the time.

Reading

Home learning is really important. Children will bring home their Read Write Inc. Book Bag Book every Monday and they will keep this all week, as it is linked to the book they are reading in school. They will also bring home a library book of their choice on Thursday. They must bring these books and their reading record **to school every day** in their bookbags. Reading both of these books at home is a great chance for you to see your child's progress and support them in their learning. Please read as often as you can, this could take just 10 minutes, or as long as you like, **and simply record the date and a short comment in the Reading Record book.** This will show us your child has read, and we will reward them for home reading. We will not usually write in these books as reading is done in the phonics lessons, but we will check the books for any queries. Each child will get a reward bookmark and earn stickers each time they read at home. When their bookmark is complete they will win a small prize and later their very own book to keep! As well as reading it is very important you **discuss the book while reading and ask and answer questions** to develop comprehension skills.

Common Exception Words

Included in this letter is a list of Year 1 and Year 2 Common Exception Words. These are words that children cannot sound out using their phonics, but just have to learn how to read and spell. Many of them are the ones that are in your child's Reading Record. In Year 2 Children are **expected to be able to read** all of the Year 1 words and **spell them correctly** in their writing, and by the end of the year, do the same for all of the Year 2 words. This can be tricky and **daily practice at home will help**. As part of your daily reading you could pick some of these words to read and spell on scrap paper. You could even try and use them in a sentence. If you wish you could copy them onto cards and play word finding and using games. All of this will help your child learn these tricky words. Feel free to ask if you need any support with this.

Homework

Each half term the children will get a homework project. This does not need to be completed until the end of that half term. It will be linked to the topic being taught in class and is your chance to get creative and share their learning together. It can be whatever you wish and can be done using things in your house or local library. Please do not worry about the projects being 'fancy', whatever you come up with together is great!

Spellings

Your child will get spellings to practice and learn each week. These will be given out on a **Wednesday** and tested the following **Tuesday**. Learning to spell useful words is a vital part of your child's reading and writing education. **Please practice spellings little and often using the look, cover, write, check** technique, and make them meaningful by writing them in a sentence. This should be one practice each night, rather than all in one go. The Spelling Record book they bring home supports you to do this. Children should **bring their Spelling Record Book in everyday** just like their Reading Record. They will also be able to practise their spellings on **Spelling Shed**. The login for this is attached to this letter. They will be rewarded for regular practise with Dojos.

IT

School have made it possible for the children to access **Lexia**, a phonics program, **Education City** and **Purple Mash** at home. You will have received the logins for these programs before and the passwords have not changed for Year 2, just use them as you did before. You can access these programs whenever you would like for the children to complete fun games to support their learning. We will check Lexia for certificates weekly and give these out in Good News Assembly. The Logins are attached to this letter.

Fruit

As in Year 1, children will receive a piece of fruit each day at break time. They do not need any additional snacks. Water is available at any time of the day. If you wish for your child to have milk each day, it is possible to pay for this at the office.

Clothing

Every year children arrive in beautiful new uniform, and every year some of them have lost it within the first week! Please remember to write your child's name in **all** items of clothing. If an item does not have a name in it, we may write it in.

Assessment

Children will be assessed regularly throughout the year using teachers own assessments. If we are concerned about the amount of progress your child is making we will contact you directly, but please feel free to contact us if you have any of your own concerns. As you may be aware SAT tests are no longer statutory and will not be used at the end of this academic year. However, children's progress will still be assessed at the end of the year.

Website

Please check the Year 2 pages of the website regularly as we often update them with photos of what the children have been up to in school. The first updates will be on the autumn pages. <http://www.st-james-hyde.tameside.sch.uk/>

If you have any questions or queries at all, please feel free to see either of us in class after school.

Regards,

Miss Chapman, Miss Birtles and the Class 2 team.