



Welcome to Year 2



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer and the children are excited for the new challenges that Year 2 has to offer. This year your child will be taught by myself, Miss Barnes, alongside Mrs Hall and Mrs Moore.

To enable me to complete my SENDCo responsibilities, Mr Mullins will teach Year 2 on Thursday mornings and Mrs Hall will teach the class on Thursday afternoons, alongside Mrs Moore. Occasionally, this day is changed to accommodate Mr Mullins' headteacher commitments.

We are looking forward to getting to know the children and working together with parents so that we have a very exciting and productive year. This class newsletter contains some key information about Year 2. However, please attend the welcome meeting for parents on **Monday 4th September at 5pm** to learn more about the routines, expectations and plans for the year ahead.

In line with the rest of the school, I offer an open-door policy so please do not hesitate to come and see me either before or after school or leave a telephone message with the office for me to give you a call back should you have any questions or queries. Alternatively, you can email me using our class email address 'year2@woodstone.leics.sch.uk' and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.



Our Morning Routine

Every morning we will put a lunch board outside the classroom. This will show the daily menu options so that the children can choose their lunch for the day. To promote independence skills, we will be encouraging the children to say their goodbyes outside the classroom (preferably at the top of the steps) and then enter the classroom, unpack their belongings and prepare for their school day independently. We ask the children to change their books in the mornings should they need to. The children will then make their way to their seat and begin their morning activity which will be on the board. We aim to start our register and daily activities promptly at 8.55am 😊

Our Class Behaviour System

We will continue to use the peg system to promote positive behaviour in Year 2 but we have adapted it to make it more age appropriate. All children will begin the day on 'Ready to Learn'. Those children with their pegs at the top of the chart at the end of the day will receive a smiley face next to their name on our class reward chart. Children will receive a small reward from our prize box every fifth time they reach the top of the chart. Those children with their pegs at the bottom of the chart will be given 5 minutes time out at break or lunch time to think about their choices. All children also have individual sticker charts and a class pompom jar which we will try to fill to earn a whole-class treat.

Wow Wall

If your child completes a piece of work in any subject that makes us say 'WOW', it will be displayed on our Wow Wall. They will then be given a little reward note, informing you of their achievement.

Website

Please remember to regularly check our class news page on the school website to see what we have been up to in school. You will also find our curriculum map for this term under the 'Curriculum Overviews' tab.

PE

This half-term we will be focussing on **ball skills** in PE. These lessons will be on a Tuesday afternoon. Children will need their **indoor** and **outdoor** PE kit for these lessons. This includes:

- Black pumps
- Outdoor trainers
- Black or navy shorts/jogging bottoms
- Navy or white t-shirt
- Black or navy jumper/hoodie (school hoodies are available to order)

Homework

Homework will be set every **Friday** and due in the following **Wednesday**. Children will receive a sticker for their charts for completing their homework early.

Children are also encouraged to practise their number bonds, timetables (2s, 3s, 5s and 10s) and spellings during the week. Individual spellings are written in children's reading diaries. Children should then practise spelling these words using their chosen method on a separate piece of paper at home.

Monster Phonics

We will be continuing with 'Monster Phonics' this year, an engaging phonics and spelling scheme to support children in learning to read and spell words. As most of you are aware, Monster phonics categorises the sounds into ten colour groups and each colour has a corresponding monster character. Children will read a Monster Phonics reading book in school as part of a guided group, it will then be sent home for a week to share with you at home. This is a great opportunity to build fluency and their understanding of key vocabulary.

Library

Our class library session will be on a **Tuesday** morning. Your child will have the opportunity to choose a new library book as part of this session. Please ensure children have their library book in their book bags every **Tuesday** in case they wish to borrow a new book. We have a 'Red Library Box' in our classroom should children wish to return their books earlier.

Reading

Reading has a huge impact on children's development therefore we ask for parents to read with their children five times per week in order for them to reap the full benefits.

We would appreciate if you could write in your child's diary when your child reads with you at home, along with any comments about their ability to read and understand the book. Likewise, we will write in the diary when your children have read with us at school. This is a perfect opportunity for us to communicate about your child's reading progress. Children will receive a sticker and be entered into our weekly reading raffle for reading 5 times (for around 10 minutes) per week. If children read less than 3 times a week, we will give them the opportunity to complete some reading during their golden time.



Adopt a Reading Teddy

To encourage children to read 5 times a week and be entered into our reading raffle, we have introduced an 'Adopt a Reading Teddy' reward system. Once children have been entered into the reading raffle 10 times, they will get the opportunity to adopt a reading teddy that they can read to at home to help them become 'furry' good readers!

Reading Canines (VIPERS)

Your child will receive a 'Reading Canine' bookmark containing reading question prompts to support you in promoting your child's understanding of books at home. We will discuss this more in the welcome meeting and I will also upload more information on our class page under 'resources'.

Forest School

Our Forest School sessions will take place on **Monday** afternoons. Please provide appropriate clothing for children to change into on these days. Wellington boots or walking shoes are ideal and can be kept in our outdoor area. You may wish to provide your child with waterproof trousers along with their waterproof coat as we aim to go outside in all weathers. Our sessions will begin next **Monday** (04.09.2023).