

Year 2 Newsletter 1

Friday 10th September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We have had a great start to the new school year, with the children quickly settling back into the school routines.

This first newsletter will be a little longer than usual, as we are going to give you details of some of the new systems we operate in Y2.

- **Homework Diaries need to be in school each day please** and new homework will be stuck in on Thursdays, to be completed and handed in by the following Wednesday.
- PE and Swimming days for each Y2 class have also been stuck at the front of the Homework Diary.
- This week, your child will have brought home their new Reading book and reading card. Please make a comment and sign the card when your child has read their book to you. Completed reading books are changed on **Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** and we would be grateful if they are brought into school each day, even if they don't need changing. Although we encourage books to be changed at least once per week, it is often beneficial to keep a book for several nights, giving your child the opportunity to revisit it and ask/answer questions about what they have read.
- Our year group motto is '**Reach for the Stars**'. Every Friday, a child in each class will be chosen as the 'Star of the Week'. They will get to take home the Star of the Week trophy to keep at home for the weekend. They will need to return this to school on the Monday so that it can stay on their desk for the week and be given to the next child on Friday.
- **Spelling Bee** - There will be a Spelling Bee quiz each Monday which will be based on the list of Year 1 and 2 common exception words that are in your child's Homework Diary. Children will work in teams and compete against each other to spell the most words correctly to gain points for their team. We will choose between 5 and 10 words each week. Your child will not be told which words they will be as they need to be able to spell all of them accurately and therefore must practise them all on a regular basis. Please help your child to keep track of their progress by ticking off each word in their Homework Diary when they are able to spell it. Once they have 3 ticks then they should be secure.
- **Spelling Bee bag** – each class has a yellow bee bag containing our class bumblebee, a Spelling Bee Journal, bee pencils, a sharpener and a rubber. One child from each class will take this bag home each week and their challenge is to look in the journal at the spelling pattern for the week and write as many words as they can that contain the spelling pattern. For example: words with –ed at the end. They need to bring the bag back on Monday so that we can see how many words they have found and try and add to the list.

In order to promote greater independence and organisational skills in Y2 right from the first week, we encourage the children to remember their own equipment, homework, reading books, letters to hand in etc. Pencil cases are not needed in Year 2.

On **Friday 16th September**, we will launch our new CCL topic – ***Let's Celebrate***, with a party! **On the day we invite children to come to school dressed in their party clothes.** Activities will include making party hats and decorations, as well as decorating our own cake. In the afternoon we will play games followed by a party tea, **therefore we would be very grateful for any donations of non-perishable snacks (e.g. crisps, biscuits, buns).** Please remember that we are a nut-free school.

Finally, a message from Mrs Hirst and Miss Vine:

Sunflower Competition: Please send in photographic evidence or write down the height of your sunflower and pass it to Mrs Hirst or Miss Vine by Tuesday 13th September. A prize will be awarded to the child who has grown the tallest sunflower.

We look forward to an exciting year with lots of fun and great learning!

Thank you
Mrs Hardwick, Miss Fiddler, Mrs Caine and Mrs Midgley

