

Dear Parents,

I would like to wish you all a very happy new year and I hope you had a fantastic Christmas. It is lovely to have the children back and I hope they are excited for the term ahead. This term, we are welcoming Dulcie Cambridge as our new Class Teaching Assistant. This means Mrs Cambridge and Miss McCabe will be Class 2's Teaching Assistants.



This Spring term, our topic will be 'Journey into Space' where we will become a class of astronauts who research planets, find out about moon landings and get to know famous present and past astronauts.

Our Class Dinosaur, 'Doppy', will continue to visit the children's houses each weekend. So that the rest of the class can find out about Doppy's adventures, please support your child in writing a few sentences with pictures about Doppy's time with your family in the 'Doppy's Adventures' book. Doppy selects children randomly so please let me know if there is a particularly tricky weekend and Doppy can easily go home with someone else. Thank you to those who have already had Doppy to stay. The children absolutely love sharing their Doppy weekends and likewise enjoy hearing about other's weekends with Doppy. As before, any writing should be done in pencil. It can be tricky to read writing in pen and it is beneficial for your child to write at home in the same way they do at school. Doppy will go home with a child on a Friday and I ask that she is returned on the following Monday. Please try to make sure the book is also back by the Wednesday. This ensures your child can share their weekend with Doppy in the week's show and tell session before Doppy goes to another home the next weekend.

In Class 2, 'Show and Tell' sessions are for children to share their topic homework rather than personal items from home. There is a new topic menu that lists a range of activities for your child to choose from and complete. As well as a paper copy in your child's homework book, this list is also available on STARZ. Please let your child decide which activities they like the look of and support them in completing at least one per half term. Please encourage

your child to use this list for their topic homework as it is these pieces of work we share in class, rather than extra bits they have done at home. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that the topic homework is designed to encourage creativity and engagement in the current topic and the homework is not intended or expected to be time consuming or at all stressful. For this reason, please make sure topic homework is from the topic menu. Although I absolutely encourage children to do any work related to our topic, it is important for the purpose of Show and Tell sessions that the work being shown is set homework. Topic homework can also be shown in Celebration Assemblies/key Stage Homework Displays on Friday afternoons.

Spellings will be given out on **Wednesday's** and should be learnt in time for the following **Wednesday**. Occasionally, spellings will be replaced with challenges and spelling activities that encourage your child to use the word in multiple contexts. This is because spellings are often learnt and written correctly in a spelling test, but not always transferred into writing. Providing challenges and activities will try to address this issue. Additionally, Year 1 spellings may also be replaced with phonics homework in preparation for their end of year phonics screening test. The children will not be tested on all the spellings but instead dictated sentences with 2 or 3 of the spellings in. This will help the children to apply their learnt spellings into a purposeful context.

There will also be weekly English or Maths homework. This will be given on a **Wednesday** and should be returned for the following **Wednesday** like the spellings. Homework books should be put in the homework tray each **Wednesday** but can otherwise be kept at home. However, if topic homework is done in the homework book, then it may be brought in for Show and Tell. Please make sure your child is completing all homework in **pencil**. It is extremely important that the homework is completed on time. The Maths and English homework is designed to reconsolidate class learning and is a great indication of your child's understanding. For this reason, please support your child but allow them to complete the tasks independently so that I can assess their true understanding.

Your child should come to school with their reading book and reading record book **every day** and is also expected to practise reading at home with an adult or older child for 10 minutes every day. This is truly essential for their progression and it is important to make sure

your child understands the story. Try to challenge them by asking questions about the characters, their favourite part or what they think might happen next. It is important to remember that the children have a lot of comprehension targets to achieve and these need to be assessed in school. Therefore, your child cannot move up or down a book colour unless it has been approved by me or a Class 2 TA. Whilst your child may appear to be reading fluently within a colour, reading assessments can indicate further comprehension work is needed. Without daily reading, it is likely that your child will find learning in all areas tricky. Just to remind all parents, daily reading done at home should be recorded in the reading record. This helps us know how much a book has been read. I ask for a school book to be read at least three times before it is changed. This applies to all children reading all colours. There is a green box in the classroom where books and reading records can be placed when they are ready to be changed.

Please ensure that your child has a **named** PE kit in school at **all** times and that long hair is tied back and earrings removed. Earrings should not be worn during P.E. unless they are newly pierced.

Thank you so much to those parents who came in last term as mystery readers. We would still love more mystery readers and if you are keen to do this, please let me know. Or if you require any further information about this then you can come and see me.

As a school, we are also working on 'Growth Mindset' and are looking at ways to encourage children to embrace their mistakes and believe they can always have a go. In Class 2, we celebrate our mistakes and talk about how important these are for helping us learn. They particularly enjoy celebrating my mistakes! We also spend time talking about how just because we don't know the answer yet, we will soon. As some of you may already know, we also have characters such as the persistent peacock to help us remember how to have a growth mindset. Please feel free to ask me more about this.



## Communication, Language and English

- Phonics, handwriting, spelling and grammar. Year 2s will work on 'No Nonsense Spellings' during Phonics lessons to ensure they are covering the appropriate word types as well as doing some Phase 5 sound work. Year 1s will learn new sounds and revisit ones they have already learnt in Class 1. In our daily sound work sessions, Year 1s have a chance to revisit sounds, learn new sounds and apply their new sound in reading to help practise blending and segmenting.
- Guided Reading-sharing and discussing texts to help your child relate to and understand the books they are reading. These texts will often link to the text type or theme we are learning about in English to further support your child's understanding.
- Writing exciting and imaginative texts using full stops, capital letters, adjectives and connectives. Joined handwriting will continue.
- We will be focusing on stories by the same author this term and are looking at creating our own beginning, middle and end to create a fictional story.
- Grammar revision: noun, verb, adjective, adverb, statement, question, exclamation, command. Please when possible talk about these at home. They are quite tricky words to the children but the more they are discussed, the easier they will become. Please feel free to come and see me for any support with this. I sent home a Spelling and Grammar Glossary for all parents last term but please let me know if this did not reach you and you would like one.

### At home you can help by;

- Practise phonics. Try using online games and encourage your child to think about the sounds away from school (phonics play website has a free section). Say different words to your child in the car or at home and ask them to use their robot arms to sound it out. You could also practise flash card words. Show your child different words and ask them to sound out the word and then blend it together. These flash words can be printed for

you but can also be accessed by googling Y1/Y2 High Frequency Words. Feel free to ask for support with this.

- Read/share a mixture of fiction and non-fiction texts (10 minutes every day) and help them by using reading strategies – look at pictures, spot situations in books your child might be able to relate to and encourage discussion about this, discuss titles or headings and subheadings in non-fiction. Please also remember to write in the reading log when you read with your child. This helps us know how many times a book has been read. It is really important you discuss the text as it is common for children to appear fluent in their reading and thus their decoding of words but have little understanding of a book's content.
- Write sentences with missing capital letters, full stops and other punctuation for your child to correct. It is very helpful to encourage your child to write sentences at home and familiarise with holding a pencil properly.
- I have 'nonsense' word cards which are great for supporting your child (Y1) with phonics and using sounds to segment and blend words they would have never come across. Please ask if you would like some of these.
- Challenge your child to write a Who,How,Where (Noun, Verb, Adverb, Noun) sentence e.g. **Bill** **skipped** **quickly** **to the park**. This is a fun way of creating nonsense funny sentences using the important Key Stage 1 grammar.

### Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Count and read numbers to 20 and 100.
- Write numbers to 100 in numerals and words.
- Place Value-understanding tens and ones (we are using 'ones' instead of units.)
- Patterns and shapes, estimate, weigh, measure and compare objects
- Addition and subtraction of 1, 2 and 3 digit numbers, multiplication facts for the 2, 10 and 5 times table. In CLIC maths we will also be exploring other times tables and may have weekly challenges in class for these that children can volunteer for.
- Addition and subtraction
- Time
- Multiplication and division.

- Use number lines to position numbers and to use lists and tables to sort and analyse data
- Fractions
- Measurement (capacity, volume, temperature)

At home you can help by;

- Practise number bonds! This is very important and can be easily done on a car journey or at home. You can use bunny ears to make it fun. E.g. you hold up 4 fingers (2 on each hand) above your head and your child holds up 6 fingers above their head. Practise number bonds to different numbers, not just 10 and 20. Your child **needs** to be secure with these because number bonds are at the heart of calculation; it is always helpful to continue practising them.
- Write number sums for your children to answer including addition and subtraction. Including missing number sums also e.g.  $5 + \underline{\quad} = 10$ . It would also be great help for the Year 2 children to get them used to seeing the answer in the reverse position e.g.  $10 = 5 + 5$ . This is something they will see in their SATs paper.
- Find shapes around the home and outside-talk about which 2d shapes you can spot on 3d objects.
- Solve real life problems – how many more, one more, ten more/less etc.
- Use measuring equipment to make biscuits/cakes. Please encourage your child to look at weighing scales and reading amounts in grams.
- Practise times tables – 2, 5 and 10. Try to encourage your child to make the connection between counting in fives (5, 10, 15...) and saying 5 times table ( $1 \times 5 = 5$ ).
- Writing numerals. It is very common for children to get their numbers back to front (particularly, 3, 5, 7 and 9) and any help writing these at home is great help.
- Play counting games.
- CLIC game-Mully is hiding. E.g. Mully is hiding behind the biggest multiple of 5 without going past 20. What number is he hiding behind? (15).
- Writing numerals in words, days of the week and months of the year. It would also be a great help to discuss months of the year with your child and get them used to saying the months in order.

- Talk about money and time whenever you get an opportunity. Encourage your child to think about what they might be doing at a particular time at school or how much change they would get if they bought something in a shop.

We will also be:

- Looking at staying safe online and communicating safely
- Finding out about Sikhism in RE
- Looking at Earth, Planets and Stars in Science
- Looking at Materials and Seasonal Changes in Science
- Writing postcards and diaries
- Looking at maps and moon maps in Geography
- Finding out about famous astronauts and present day astronauts
- Creating art in the style of Van Gough
- Sculpting with clay and painting with water colours
- Learning about falling out and making new friends in PSHE
- Creating a class orchestra and practising our singing and performing

If there is anything that you are unsure of or have any other questions at all, please do not hesitate to come and see me or contact the school office.

Miss Meredew