

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school (finally!) and to Class Two. We hope you all had a really good summer.

In Year Two the children will continue to follow a topic-based curriculum. Many curriculum subjects will be tied into our topic but sometimes they will stand alone - for example, Maths, and some of the PE, RE, Science, Music and this term's Geography.

This term our main topic will be London. We will be finding out all about our capital city and learning about some of the events that have shaped it over the course of time, particularly the Great Fire of London. Our English work will include writing facts about London landmarks, information pages about London attractions and stories about Paddington Bear. After half term much of our writing and our history work will be focused on the Great Fire of London.

In the first half term we will be learning about our local area in Geography - thinking about Crowmarsh village, its key physical and human features and how it has changed over time. Our science topic will be materials.

On our web page you can find more detail about the English, Maths, Science and Geography learning that will be taking place this term.

### **Reading and Phonics**

The teaching of reading is most effective when it is a combined effort between child, school staff and parents. In school, we will hear all children read every week either in a small group or individually. Due to current restrictions we will only send books home on a Monday and collect them back in on a Friday so that they can be 'quarantined' over the weekend. If your child hasn't finished their books please let us know in their reading diary and we will leave the unfinished/unread books until the following Friday. Of course we encourage children to read widely, so if they have finished their school books before new ones are given out then they can record what else they have read (from home, the library etc) in their reading diaries too. You can also read staged reading books on the following website:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

Please write in your child's reading record if you have any questions regarding the books that are sent home or any comments about their reading.

We will be teaching phonics every day, starting with revision of the work covered in Year 1 and moving on to phonics for spelling. It would be really helpful if you could help your child to practise spelling the common exception words that are on our website, a few at a time. We will also be focusing on these in class. It would also be great practise for the children to try sight-reading these words (which can be found on the inside cover of their reading journal) for a couple of minutes before reading.

### **P.E**

Please send your child to school in their PE kit every FRIDAY because that will be our PE day this term. It is important that they have dark-coloured tracksuit bottoms and their jumper/PE hoodie because the PE lessons will be outdoors.

### **RE/PSHCE**

This term, our PSHCE work will be focused on feelings, including the following: identifying and naming feelings; understanding that feelings can change according to the situation we are in; understanding that others may feel differently to us; learning to empathise with others; thinking of strategies for coping with our feelings/managing our emotions.

In RE, we will be thinking about 'leaders' and discussing questions such as: Why do people follow? Do people need leaders? What happens when people don't have a leader? What makes a good leader?

### **What to do if your child is off school**

If your child is feeling well but has to stay off school because your family have been asked to self-isolate you will find a topic menu of tasks on our class page of the website. There are a whole range of tasks on this document which relate to our London topic and will keep them busy! If your child wants to create their own London-based task or project then that is also fine. We also have a list of the common exception words on the website, so would ask that they continue to practise spelling these, writing them in sentences where possible, and of course keeping up with regular reading practise would be very beneficial.

During lockdown you will have received many links to websites that have provided online learning resources while schools were closed - you may still find these useful if you need further activities. We will also put some useful links on our webpage as the term goes on. Please let us know if you have any questions.

### **Teaching days**

These will be our teaching days for this term and we expect it to remain like this while Covid restrictions and routines are in place.

Monday and Tuesday: Mrs Lucas & Miss Wagner

Wednesday: Mrs Marsh & Mrs Lucas

Thursday: Mrs Marsh & Miss Wagner

Friday: Mrs Marsh & Mrs Lucas

### **Housekeeping:**

Please make sure that all your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name, including all their uniform, as well as coats, hats and other items that they bring in, such as pencil cases and water bottles. We have already got an unnamed, brand new cardigan hanging in our cloakroom if anyone has lost one!

Despite the unusual circumstances that we find ourselves in at the moment, we are confident that this will be a great year; we are looking forward to working with the children and helping them become the best learners they can be!

Mrs Lucas, Mrs Marsh & Miss Wagner