



Welcome to Year Two

Welcome to Year Two! We are very excited about the year ahead and are looking forward to getting to know all of the new children and parents who have joined us.

At the end of last year the children were asked all about their interests and hobbies, and also what they would like to find out during the year ahead of them. From this, we were able to create some interesting and exciting topics for the year. This term we will be enjoying two whole school topics, covering all National Curriculum key skills: 'Zap' 'Game on!' and 'Rubbish.

'Zap!' and 'Game on'

During this topic, we will explore a variety of subjects through comics. The children will produce their own comic writing and use this to design their own animation using technology. We will research the changes in technology producing a timeline to discover the significant developments. The children will use the research to create explanation texts. Though art Year Two will be taught a range of drawing skills using different approaches. During this term we will explore a variety of religious places and recognise why they are special. The children will work together to enhance their team building skills and learn new playground games that they can share with others.

Rubbish

Through the Rubbish! topic we will explore the uses of materials, identifying those which can and cannot be recycled. The children will collect data about this to create tables and graphs through the use of software programs. We will reuse materials to work on our textiles skills. Year Two will handle money in a variety of contexts working towards finding change. We will strengthen our ability to solve multiplication and division calculations through written methods. We will finish the term by taking on lead roles in the Christmas production and reciting personal winter poems.

The rest of the year is outlined below:

Autumn 1st	Autumn 2nd	Spring 1st	Spring 2nd	Summer 1st	Summer 2nd
Zap! Game on	Rubbish	One World	Up, Up ... and away!	Who? What? Where?	Dream Big!

The timetable in Year 2 will be slightly different to Year 1 and so we have highlighted the key aspects below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
New speed reads/spelling challenges & homework given, due in the following Monday.	Additional PE session (Gym) (Children will get changed in school for this lesson)	Red Library Play Ball (Come into school in black leggings/joggers with school jumper and polo shirt)	Music Dance with Jane Douglass (Come into school in black leggings/joggers with school jumper and polo shirt)	8.40 – 9.00 Parent Read-ins Speed Read checks Green Library

PE kits

Although we ask the children to wear black leggings/joggers on Wednesday and Thursday, they should always have plimsolls, red shorts and a white t-shirt hanging on their pegs. We teach PE lessons at additional times in the week. On hot PE days, we will change the children into their shorts if necessary.



Welcome to Year Two

Morning Routines

When pupils arrive in the mornings they are free to come into the classroom from 8.40, but we ask that they arrive no later than 8.50. Staff will tick them in from the garden gate and they will be expected to enter the classroom independently. This also allows an opportunity for parents to catch up with staff, and the 'Going-Home book' will be available to record any changes to usual pick-up. Once the children are in the classroom they should change their own books, record the title of their book and place them in the box provided for checking. It is important that the children's home learning logs are in school every day so that the class teachers have access to them when needed.

Handwriting

Pupils should have developed an effective pencil grip. Some children may already be joining letters, and others focusing on the correct formation of all letters. We cannot move children onto joined handwriting until they are displaying correct letter formation. The handout provides clear guidelines on the school's agreed formation style and should be used when supporting your child at home. If you can help your child to practise their letters on lines, this will support their positioning for tall (t, l, h, k etc) and tail (g, y, j, y etc) letters.

Phonics/ Spelling

The national expectation is that pupils have completed Phase 5 in their Phonics by the end of their Year One. The handout shows all the Phase 3 & 5 sounds that the pupils should be familiar with. It would be helpful to recap these regularly, reading the sounds within words, and attempting to spell words containing these sounds. Your child's speed-read words will be based on the sounds they are learning in school. In Year Two there will be a strong focus on spelling the majority of words correctly. Children should be applying this skill throughout **all lessons**.

Show and Tell

We love to see what the children have been up to at home, and so there are 'Show and Tell' opportunities every week. We ask that children share their achievements, extra work or things they have taken time to make, however we discourage toys or gifts being shared.

TES iboard

If you are interested in accessing online activities with your child at home, please see the link below. The activities will be updated half termly to match the learning in the classroom.

www.iboard.co.uk/teacher/year2chestnutlane

Finally, it is great to have parents help in the classroom and get involved in activities with the children, as well as supporting the daily running of the classroom. If you are able to help then please let your class teacher know. Help does not have to be on a weekly basis, but could be alternate weeks, half termly, or as and when you are available. It is important for all helpers to have the appropriate clearance, so please see the office if you do not already have this in place. We are particularly interested in any parents that can support our daily environment club, held at lunch times (12:00 – 12:30). Please see Mrs Tyler if you can offer any support.

We are looking forward to a great first term,

Miss Hildreth and Miss Salter



Welcome to Year Two

Question raised by Parents during Topic Meeting – 21st September 2016

How do you make correcting spellings, when the child needs to use an alternative grapheme, a positive experience?

Once the children reach Phase 5 of Letters and Sounds, and start to learn alternative ways of spelling the same sound (e.g. ai, ay, a_e etc) it can be challenging for the children (and adults!) to get their heads around. We do not want to demotivate the children from having a go at spelling and so we always encourage them to be independent when making choices. One possibility is to provide columns, headed by the alternative spelling options:

ai	a_e	ay

This way the children are able to insert the words according to the spelling they think they should use, and then together these can be reviewed, picking out the positives and perhaps asking the child to try one or two in a different column if they are incorrect.

Are children expected to spell the speed-read words? Will the spellings be assessed on a Friday?

We will be assessing the children’s knowledge of their focus sounds weekly in school. This is currently on a Friday; however we will inform you if the day should change. It is always good for the children to practise applying their focus sounds (highlighted on their speed-reads) into spellings during the week. As the children progress with their phonics they may not always be assessed on spelling the same 6 words within their speed-read grid, but their ability to apply different spelling rules and patterns to root words. These will be called ‘spelling challenges’ and they will be explained in more detail when your child reaches that phase.

Should girls wear tights or long socks on days they are changing for PE?

We have asked for all children to have plimsolls, red shorts and a white t-shirt hanging on their pegs at all times as we will change for PE during the school day for sessions other than Play Ball and Dance. If you feel that it is easier for your daughter to change in and out of socks, rather than tights, on these occasions then you may wish to consider this when getting dressed in the morning. If your daughter is changing in and out of tights we will support them if/when needed.