

Welcome back to the beginning of a new school year. We are so happy to have you all back.

There are many ways in which you can help and encourage your child at home with their learning. Such regular support is invaluable in helping your child to make progress. In maths for example, children need to be able to tell the time. They need to be able to recognise 'o'clock', 'half past', 'quarter past' and 'quarter to'. In addition to being able to recognise coins and their equivalent values, they need to be able to complete simple calculations involving different amounts. It would also help if your child could be allowed to handle/spend small sums of money. Times tables will be taught in a formal way in Year 2. We will be starting with the 2s, 5s and 10s times tables. It is helpful if your child can count on and back in 2s, 5s and 10s. Frequent repetition will help your child to remember their tables.

It is essential that children are encouraged and helped to read daily. They need to read/look at a wide range of books and not focus exclusively on books from school. Please record any additional books or texts you read with your child in the orange record book. Reading a wide range of books, listening to a variety of stories, talking about and discussing what they have read or heard will help with the understanding and appreciation of stories and other texts. This is an area which is particularly important when assessing children's learning.

In Year 2, children are given spellings to learn on a Friday and are tested on those words the following Friday. When learning spellings we find an effective way is to use the LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK method. (The children have been shown how to use this method.) The spellings will run alongside our Little Wandle spelling scheme.

Workshops

In order to give you plenty of warning, please note that we are planning a couple of workshops/activities in school. We are very lucky that our PTFA is helping with the costs of some of these workshops. We will also ask for a voluntary contribution for each of the workshops:

One forthcoming workshop will be focusing on Road Safety for children. Letters with further details will be sent nearer the time.

Year 2 have their PE lesson on Wednesdays. Children need to come into school wearing a white t-shirt, navy/black shorts with a tracksuit and trainers for outdoor PE. We are planning to take children outside whenever possible.

Children will continue to use their reading folders for reading books, spelling books etc, these will fit easily into their tray. No backpacks thank you. Please ensure that all your child's belongings, including hats, scarves, gloves, PE kit, reading folders, lunch boxes and water bottles are **clearly marked with his /her name**. All coats and jackets need to have strong hanging loops so that they stay on a peg and do not end up on the floor to get trodden on. Children must be able to put their own shoes on and fasten them independently. The children's shoes need to be suitable for going on the playground climbing equipment e.g. no high heels or open sandals. The children also need to be able to manage their own ties.

Please send in a named water bottle for your child every day.

Thank you for your continuing help and support.

Mrs Pedley, Mr McCarthy and Mrs Mills