



# Welcome to Year 2



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer and the children are excited for the new challenges that Year 2 has to offer. This year, your child will be taught by myself, Miss Barnes, alongside our teaching assistant Mrs Hall. Miss Hughes will continue to be our lunchtime supervisor this year as well as her new role as a 1:1 learning support assistant in the classroom. We are excited to welcome Mrs Whetton to our team, she will be working alongside Mrs Hughes at lunchtime. We are also very fortunate to have Miss Davies helping in our class while she is completing her teaching assistant qualification. To enable me to complete my SENDCo responsibilities, Mr Mullins will teach Year 2 on a Wednesday morning and Mrs Hall will teach the class on a Wednesday afternoon.

We are all looking forward to getting to know the children and working together with parents so that we have a very exciting and productive year.

In line with the rest of the school, I offer an open door policy so please do not hesitate to come and see me either before or after school or leave a telephone message with the office for me to give you a call back should you have any questions or queries. Alternatively, you can email me using our class email address '[year2@woodstone.leics.sch.uk](mailto:year2@woodstone.leics.sch.uk)' and I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

## Our Morning Routine

Every morning we will put a lunch board outside the classroom. This will show the daily menu options so that the children can choose their lunch for the day. To promote independence skills, we will be encouraging the children to say their goodbyes outside the classroom (preferably at the top of the steps) and then enter the classroom, unpack their belongings and prepare for their school day independently. The children may then make their way to their seat and begin their morning activity which will be on the board. We ensure all children change their books on a Friday morning where they will choose between 3-5 books. We aim to start our register and daily activities at 8.55am. ☺

## Our Class Behaviour System

We will continue to use the peg system to promote positive behaviour in Year 2 but we have adapted it to make it more age appropriate. All children will begin the day on 'Ready to Learn'. Those children with their pegs at the top of the chart at the end of the day will receive a sticker next to their name on our class reward chart. Children will receive a small reward from our prize box every third time they reach the top of the chart. Those children with their pegs at the bottom of the chart will be given 5 minutes time out at break or lunch time to think about their choices. We will also have individual sticker charts and a class pompom jar which we will try to fill to earn a whole-class treat.

## Wow Wall

If your child completes a piece of work in any subject that makes us say 'WOW', it will be displayed on our Wow Wall. They will then be given a little reward note, informing you of their achievement.

## Website

Please remember to regularly check our class news page on the school website to see what we have been up to in school. You will also find our Topic Web for this term under the 'Curriculum Overviews' tab.

## PE

This half-term we will be focussing on **ball skills** in PE. These lessons will be on a Monday afternoon. Children will need their **indoor** and **outdoor** PE kit for these lessons. This includes:

- Black pumps
- Outdoor trainers
- Black or navy shorts/jogging bottoms
- Navy or white t-shirt
- Black or navy jumper/hoodie (school hoodies are now available to order)
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## Swimming

Year 2 will also receive weekly swimming lessons this half-term. These lessons will be held on a Friday afternoon at Ashby Leisure Centre. Our first swimming lesson will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Please ensure your child brings a swimming costume/trunks, towel and goggles on this day. We recommend children bring their swimming kit in a large shopping bag for easy access. They also need to fit their uniform, shoes and coats into their bags while they are swimming. Please look out for another letter regarding swimming later this week.

Please ensure all items are clearly labelled. Children will need to remove their earrings for the lesson - we cannot assist with this.

## Phonics

As you are aware, the current Year 2 children did not sit the Year 1 phonics check due to it being cancelled for Covid related reasons. We have recently been informed that Year 2 are required to take the phonics check during the autumn term of this year instead. While we do continue to use phonics to decode unfamiliar words in Year 2, we begin to focus more on spelling rules and identifying spelling patterns. However, it will still be beneficial for children to continue to practise reading their sound cards to support their reading and ensure they are ready for the phonics check.

Please look out for more information regarding the screening check over the next few weeks.

## Topic

Our first topic this year is 'Muck. Mess and Mixtures'. This is a fun topic involving lots of exciting science experiments. A lot of our English work will be based around the Roald Dahl book 'George's Marvellous Medicine'.

## Reading

Reading has a huge impact on children's development therefore we ask for parents to read with their children five times per week in order for them to reap the full benefits. We would appreciate if you could write in your child's diary when your child reads with you at home along with any comments about their ability to read and understand the book. Likewise, we will write in the diary when your children have read with us at school. This is a perfect opportunity for us to communicate about your child's reading progress. Children will receive a sticker and be entered into our weekly reading raffle for reading 5 times for around 10 minutes each time per week. If children read less than 3 times a week, we will give them the opportunity to complete some reading during their golden time on a Friday afternoon.



## Homework

Homework will be set every **Friday** and due in the following **Wednesday**. Children will receive a sticker for their charts for completing their homework early.

Children are also encouraged to practise their number bonds, timetables (2s, 5s and 10s) and spellings during the week. Individual spellings are written in children's reading diaries. Children should then practise spelling these words using their chosen method on a separate piece of paper at home.

## Library

Our class library session will be on a **Tuesday** morning. Your child will have the opportunity to choose a new library book every other week as part of this session. Please ensure they have their library book in their book bags every Tuesday should they wish to borrow a new book.

## Forest School

Year 2 will begin our Forest School sessions after the October half-term break when we have finished our swimming lessons.