



The Blake CE Primary School

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Loving, Learning and flourishing in community.

Year 2 Curriculum Letter - Terms 1 and 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday. The children have quickly settled into their new classes and we are all looking forward to a busy and successful year.

Year 2 Staff

We have a wonderful team in Year 2 to support your children. As well as the teachers Mrs Castree and Miss Hinkins, we are very lucky to be supported by a team of dedicated and enthusiastic teaching assistants including Miss Krzyczkowska and Mrs Piper. Mrs Rowlands will also be teaching Miss Hinkins' class on a Wednesday afternoon for PPA cover, as will Mrs Piper on a Friday for Mrs Castree.

Academic Expectations, Attainment and Progress for the End of Key Stage 1 (End of Year 2)

As a school we believe in delivering a broad curriculum, based firmly on our whole school values. Whilst we feel it is essential to be aware of and aim to achieve the new expectations required by the government in Reading, Writing (including SPAG) and Maths, we are firmly of the belief that progress is measured by each individual child achieving their next step; this may look very different from one child to another.

The Curriculum in Year 2

In Maths we follow the National Curriculum. We are keen to ensure that the children have an excellent knowledge of Key Instant Recall of Facts (KIRFs), for example number bonds to 10 and 20, basic times tables and can talk about the Maths that they are learning in order to build up a really strong understanding of Number, Place Value and how to solve problems.

For English we will continue to teach Phonics for a short session each day, which has proven very successful in developing the children's reading and spelling skills. We will also do more extended writing and SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) to further develop the children's composition skills.

Our topic for Terms 1 and 2 is 'Houses and Homes'; where we will be looking at different styles of houses, The Great Fire of London and Samuel Pepys. In Science, our topic is 'Materials', which will build on the learning from Year 1. In Computing, we will be exploring Google Earth and finding our houses. Outdoor PE will look to develop running, jumping, throwing and catching skills as well as playground games. In Design and Technology, we will be creating our own Pudding Lane Tudor houses and we welcome any cereal boxes for this!

Reading and Maths at Home

The children will be reading in class a great deal during our Phonics sessions and also through regular guided reading sessions.

Year 2 expectations for Reading:

Children should read 4 times a week and this should be recorded in their reading diaries. Your child can also write in their diaries as they become more independent. When you need your reading books changed, please put your bag in the book change box or hand it to your teacher on the door. In Year 2 we focus on fluency, comprehension and using punctuation through guided reading groups.

As they progress through the colour book bands, the length of books increases. If they are on stage 1-6 we would encourage children to read the books up to three times, to encourage fluency (1st read for decoding, 2nd read for fluency and 3rd read for asking questions about the text). If children are stage 7 and above, we would expect just one read but asking questions throughout the text, checking for their understanding.

This year our school has been able to invest in a new range of phonically decodable books. From next week we will aim to send home a phonic based book as well as your normal reading book.

Please do not panic or compare where your child is with reading, Every child is different and will be at different stages with their reading level and will progress at their own rate. If you are concerned, please speak to your child's class teacher.

We want to ensure that the children enjoy reading and develop as passion for it, finding the style/genre for them! We will therefore give them a range of these to try.

For homework we ask that each day your child

- reads 4 times a week for at least 5 minutes
- practises the weekly spellings in their homework books,

In our weekly newsletter we will also be sharing our Value of the month with you and ask you to challenge the children's thinking by asking questions about what they have learnt in school.

Below are a few websites that you might find useful or which the children may be interested in using at home to follow up their learning in class.

www.starfall.com www.topmarks.com www.year2maths.co.uk www.mathszone.co.uk

<http://www.conkermaths.org/cmweb.nsf/pages/numberbondpairs.html>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/index.html> www.ictgames.com www.iboard.co.uk

PE

PE kits (indoor and outdoor) are needed in school for the term, we would advise them to be ready in school throughout the week. Please make sure your child has black jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt for outdoor PE as we will be going outside, even when the weather gets colder. Long hair needs to be tied back for PE and so a hair-tie should be brought in if required. Earrings need to be removed by the child prior to the start of the lesson or they will need to bring tape in to cover their earrings. Some children choose not to wear earrings on PE days as they find this easier. We would ask that all kit and school uniform is **named** as it makes it easier to return lost items. P.E. is part of our curriculum and so children are expected to take part in all lessons unless a letter is brought excusing them for medical reasons.

Cloakrooms

Well done to all the children for adapting so well to their new cloakrooms and expectations. Both classes come through the cloakroom door in the morning, whereas at the end of the day Mrs Castree's class exit from their side classroom door. We would ask the children to line up outside the door and come in ready to start the day independently. We encourage the children to be responsible for their own book bags each day. If you could ensure everything is **named**, this will hopefully make things a little easier for both children and adults.

Snacks and Water Bottles

Please ensure your child comes to school with a snack and a water bottle every day, which is separate from their packed lunch. A government snack of fruit is provided for the afternoon break.

Going Home

If your child is going home with someone different, please inform the class teacher or TA at the start of the day or contact the school office if plans change during the day. It is important, to ensure the children's safety, that we know who is going to be collecting them at the end of the day.

We want to make sure that the children have a fantastic time in Year 2. We also aim to ensure that they continue to develop a love of learning and build their confidence and independence. The link between home and school is vitally important, so please come and see us if you have any concerns or simply wish to catch up on how your child is getting on in school. Although there are set dates for parents' evenings, please don't feel you have to wait until then to come and talk to us. Please feel free to catch us before or after school to arrange a meeting, send an email, or call the school office if you are unable to catch up at school.

We look forward to a busy, happy and successful year for all!

Miss Hinkins, Mrs Castree and the Year 2 team.