

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Year 2 – Thomas - Autumn Newsletter

8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 2 (Thomas) and the start of the new school year. We are very excited about the year ahead. We hope that the children are well rested and have had a fantastic summer break. We have planned some really exciting learning across the year and hope that the children will enjoy it.

We will be spending the opening days of the new term getting to know each other and getting back into school routines, establishing a few new ones and sharing expectations for Year 2.

The structure of the day will not differ hugely from Year 1. We will begin most mornings with fluency and reading activities, moving onto English and Maths. The afternoons will allow for the children to explore the Foundation Subjects. Many of these subjects will be taught through a range of Topics which will change each term. In History, we will be starting with our topic about *History Makers*. In Science, our topic will be the Use of Everyday Materials. We will be learning about IT around us in Computing and in Art we will focus on our class artist, Alma Thomas. For PE, the focus will be dance and games.

In English, we will once again teach through our Talk 4 Writing structure. The children will learn key vocabulary and sentence structures through learning a model text and then apply this learning to their own writing. Our first focus will be Character and the children will be learning how to bring a character to life through their descriptions. There will be a big focus on spelling, handwriting and punctuation so please encourage your children to practise their handwriting, spellings and punctuation at home.

In Maths we will be regularly practising our key instant recall facts. We advise the children to practise these daily at home. A quick count up, count down activity in 2s, 5s and 10s will support the children with their recall and support them in their knowledge of multiplication. Once they are comfortable counting up and down in 2s, 5s and 10s they can begin to answer questions out of sequence, e.g. 3 x 5. We are using videos and songs in class which is fun and helpful! You also have access to *Times Table Rock Stars* and *Numbots* which will support this learning. When the children are secure with these we will move on to 4s and 3s.

How can you support your child in Year 2?

Clothing

Please ensure that your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name.

1. All items of clothing (shirts, shorts, dresses, skirts, shoes, trainers, cardigans, PE shirts, PE shorts, hats, coats, gloves)
2. Lunchbox (where appropriate)
3. Water bottle
4. Book bag (when applicable)
5. Any other bags/clothing that may come in for a special event

Helping your child to understand that they are responsible for their own belongings is really useful. We always do our best to track down missing items and help the children to organise themselves, but please can you ensure that you label everything to help us find missing items.

PE lessons

PE will be on Monday (Dance) and Wednesday (outside). We will also continue to take part in the Daily Mile. On these days, please ensure your child is wearing the following:

- Blue t-shirt (plain or with a Westfield logo)
- Black shorts
- Black bottoms (plain joggers or leggings)
- Blue jumper (Westfield hoodie, Westfield school jumper or cardigan)
- Trainers

There should not be any other coloured items being worn. Please also ensure that your child is not wearing any branded items with large logos on them. Thank you.

Reading books

Your child will be given 2 reading books and a reading record book. Reading books will be at the appropriate level based on the most recent assessment information. Children need to read each day for at least 10 - 15 minutes. Children can change their books once they have finished them. Please can your child have their **reading books and reading record book in school every day**. This will ensure they can be read with weekly and change their books too. We value your feedback and the children are awarded certificates after an adult has listened to them read at home 50, 100, 150 and 200 times. Please note if a record is not made in the reading record book we are not able to count it.

Encourage your child to talk about the story, the characters and to make predictions about what might happen next and why they think this. It is very important at this stage for children to be developing a good comprehension of the text. This skill takes time to develop and is assessed weekly during Guided Reading sessions. Once we feel your child has mastered these skills at the level they are reading they will then move up a reading band.

Home Learning

DAILY Reading - Children should read every day at home for a minimum of 10 minutes. In most cases, this will be the child reading to an adult on a one-to-one basis. In addition to this, reading sessions could also include listening to taped stories and listening to stories read by parents/carers using a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Electronic texts e.g. official regulated websites and eBooks can also be used.

WEEKLY Spellings – To start with children will be set spellings each week and checked through a test each week on a Friday so please make sure that spelling books come in on this day. This will be communicated to parents at the Meet the Teacher Meetings at the beginning of each year and in the termly newsletter.

HALF TERMLY Number Fact Practise - Mathematical development is dependent on children having a secure grasp of key number facts (including number bonds and multiplication/division facts). It is therefore vital that all children have a secure knowledge of these and times tables practice should, therefore, be carried out by children regularly at home (several times a week).

HALF TERMLY Suggested Activities - To support learning across all subjects, each half term there will be a list of optional suggested activities that the children can complete at home. These activities will focus on supporting the learning in school that half term and will focus on hands on activities, family orientated tasks and independent learning opportunities.

Communication

If you would like to speak to us about your child, please write a note at home before school and send it in with your child. The mornings are very busy and not the best time to verbally pass on important messages so we appreciate your understanding and support with this. If a response is needed then we will get back to you as soon as we can. If you need a longer discussion then please email the school office to arrange a time to meet.

Please take a moment to check the yearly outline on the school website to give you an overview of the learning that we have coming up.

We are looking forward to the year ahead!

Kind regards

The Year 2 Team

Mrs Rance, Mrs Wortley-Taylor and Mrs Sharman

Key Dates for your diary:

Day of Languages – Tuesday 26th September
Tempest Photography (Individual Photos) – Wednesday 27th September
Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 29th September
INSET Day – Friday 6th October
Parents Evening – Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October
Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church (TBC) – Friday 20th October
Half-Term – Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October
Open Learning Morning – Friday 3rd November
Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 9th November
Cool to be Kind Week – Monday 13th to Friday 17th November
Children in Need – Friday 17th November
INSET Day – Friday 24th November
INSET Day – Monday 27th November
Class Assembly – Friday 1st December
EYFS & KS1 Christmas Assembly – Friday 8th December
Child Shows Parent – Tuesday 12th December
RockSteady Concert – Friday 15th December
Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 19th December
Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church (TBC) – Wednesday 20th December