

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer after the trials of 'Lockdown Life'! We are excited to be starting a new year back in school and are hopeful that with the systems we have in place, life can return to a greater degree of normality. We have made many adaptations, as you will appreciate, within the wider school and in class to enable us to operate safely within the guidance set out by Central Government. This means that the learning environment and learning itself will look different to normal. We have made slight changes to our curriculum so that should we have to operate virtually, learning is not interrupted, can be easily accessed by children and overseen remotely by staff. This includes times where children may need to self-isolate due to individual family circumstances. There will undoubtedly be teething problems but we anticipate that changes to routines will quickly be established and that life in school will return to a 'new normal' Lilac Class will be taught by Mrs Durie and Yellow Class by Mrs Bell.

### **Communication**

We will do our best to keep you informed of any changes and with that in mind are going to retain the Dojo messaging system for communication (new invites for your new class will be sent out in the coming days) so that you have a means of direct communication with staff. This year we will be conducting our Parents' Evening via a 10 minute telephone call early in November (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>) to discuss how your child has settled in and update you about their learning. Please be assured that if we have any concerns, we will get in touch with you.

### **Topics this term**

#### **English**

- Word level work -children will have a phonics lesson each day and we will continue to use 'Letters and Sounds' scheme to ensure they have acquired all the sounds they need to be confident in both reading and spelling to compliment the Year 2 spelling objectives. A copy of the school's high-frequency spellings and KS1 common exception words have also been attached. These will regularly be assessed through dictated sentences. We will have a spelling lesson each week, exploring the Year 2 spelling rules and this will form the basis of our daily handwriting practise. Handwriting continues to be an important focus this year and a fluent, consistent style is encouraged. Regular practice at home would be helpful.
- Sentence level work- Children will consolidate their ability to write sentences which make sense using a capital letter and full stop. We will also look at using interesting vocabulary and conjunctions to improve and extend sentences.

## **Maths**

In Maths this term, we will be using short pre-assessments and our own teacher observations to help us identify any objectives from the previous year which may require further consolidation before moving on to more advanced content. We will continue to use 'Power Maths' Scheme of work this year, alongside many other fantastic resources.

We will be covering the following objectives from the Year 2 curriculum:

- Counting, properties of number, place value and ordering, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, movement, length, weight, capacity, symmetry, 2D and 3D shape, time, data handling and fractions.

## **Science**

- We will look at the use of everyday materials (Chemistry). This will include investigating the suitability of everyday materials for uses and exploring how materials can be changed (squashing, twisting etc.).

## **Computing**

- In this unit, learners will be using a computer to create music. They will consider how music can make them think and feel. Learners will compare creating music digitally and non-digitally. Learners will look at patterns and purposefully create music.
- E Safety- To create a set of rules for using technology in different environments and setting. To identify how these rules can help keep us safe online.

## **Design Technology**

- Sculpture (Looking at the work of Tom Claasson)

## **Art**

- Printing

## **History**

- Famous Firsts. What special events and inventions have changed our world?

## **Geography**

- Exploring Hot and Cold Areas (Link to explorers e.g. Captain Scott, Ranulph Fiennes)
- Seven continents

## **P.E.**

- Gymnastics

## **Music**

- Experimenting with sounds
- Exploring 'beat', 'tempo', 'dynamics' and 'pitch'
- Playing and performing together

During the Year all Y2 children will also have the chance to take part in 'Little Fingers' for 1 term, where they will learn to read music while playing the violin. This is provided by Mr. Hartley, our upper strings teacher from Durham Music Service.

## **PSHCE/RSE**

- This term in PSHE our topic is Health and Wellbeing. We will begin by looking at good hygiene routines and ways to be safe around our homes - including using medicines safely. We will use the NSPCC 'Talk PANTS with Pantosaurus' resources to look at privacy and keeping ourselves safe. We will then move on to looking at how we can keep our bodies physically healthy as well as looking at the importance of mental health. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these topics, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## **Religious Education**

- What can we learn from the story of St. Cuthbert?
- Why is light important at Christmas?

## **Dates**

October Half term: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

Parents' Evening telephone conferences: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Holidays: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

## **Timetable**

Please find attached a copy of our timetable. This is to give you an idea about what your child has learned each day but is subject to change (other than PE).

This year our PE day is a Tuesday. Please remember that your child should come to school already dressed for PE in line with our changes. Our class will continue to access Forest Schools throughout the year and we will let you know in advance so that appropriate clothing can be worn to school on those days.

### **Reading**

This year reading books will be changed weekly on a Friday and must be returned by Wednesday to allow a quarantine period for books. These books are all colour-coded and will match your child's level of phonics knowledge and comprehension ability. Please record any reading you do with your child in their reading record. We recommend at first, you look at the inside front cover of the book where you will find information for parents regarding the sounds and tricky words you might find. There are also some ideas of activities to do with your child before, during and after reading the book. Then, concentrate on word recognition and understanding the meaning of any new words. If your child is struggling with some of the words, you could make a flash card and practise it separately from the book. Following that should be fluency and expression practice. This will improve through lots of modelling by you. *Can they copy your expression? Are they thinking about the punctuation and how this can help expression?* Finally, talk about the book with your child to check comprehension skills. Reading regularly at home helps them to make good progress and we advise trying to read for 10 minutes at least three times weekly. Individual reading will also be carried out at school and we will be stamping your child's reading record to show this, although additional notes will not be made in order to limit cross-contamination. Children should have their school reading book in their bag on a daily basis to enable us to listen to them read. Children will also have access to library books, these will be changed each Monday.

### **Homework**

In Year 2, children will be given a booklet of Maths homework activities, with the aim of one activity completed as homework each week and the booklet should be returned before half term. This year, we are going to be moving to SpellZone an education spelling program which tailors an individualised spelling scheme for your child. Your child will then complete weekly activities based on their identified spelling need as part of their homework and will move to new spellings as they demonstrate a secure memory of the given word lists. The children will no longer be given a formal list of spellings to learn as this will be an ongoing part of the program.

In addition, we ask that you read with your child for 10 to 15 minutes at least three times weekly.

We hope your child will enjoy the year in either Lilac or Yellow Class. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. Durie, Mrs Bell and Mrs Rose

## High Frequency Words

<b>Set 1</b>		
the	go	was
to	he	are
I	she	my
no	was	
<b>Set 2</b>		
and	like	when
they	some	were
said	come	there
have	what	
<b>Set 3</b>		
water	should	called
people	would	asked
looked	because	
could	different	
<b>Set 4</b>		
does	of	Monday
coming	off	Tuesday
with		Wednesday
might	to	Thursday
every	two	Friday
again	too	Saturday
treasure		Sunday