

# Welcome to Year Two

We hope you find the information in this booklet helpful. You will find details about the curriculum content, routines and expectations on how you can support your child in Year Two. If you have any more questions please do not hesitate to ask, preferably at the end of the working day because teachers need to prepare children for learning and this involves them being settled ready on the carpet for registration at 8:50am.

**We request that you fill in an after school collection arrangement form for your class teacher, as it is imperative for the safeguarding of your child in our care.**

## Classes and Staff

### Beech Class

Mrs Brown- Literacy Coordinator  
Mrs Lovell

### Poplar Class

Miss Thorne - Head of Year  
Mrs Philp

### Sycamore Class

Mrs Ireton- Deputy Head  
Mrs Worbey  
Mrs O'Dell

## Higher Level Teaching Assistants

Mrs Tropman and Mrs Whiting work mainly in Year Two, but at times Mrs Bland and Mrs Cain will also be teaching. The Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) teach classes when teachers are having planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time, are on courses or absent due to illness.

## Support Staff

Each class has the support of a teaching assistant every morning. Throughout the day some children will be given individual or group support.

## Curriculum

Our curriculum is very exciting as it is enriched through different creative and challenging learning opportunities. Every year we continue to build on the children's learning journey to ensure that we develop and enhance their experiences in Year Two. Each term we will create an overview of the skills and knowledge that your child will be experiencing; you will also find these on the website.

## WOW Days

Throughout the year we aim to bring learning to life by planning in themed days in order to enhance the experiences for your children. The organisation of these days will be varied, including working in mixed class groups and rotating classes so teachers teach all children. There may be a possibility of working with children from the Junior school. We will welcome parental support on some of these days, as many hands make light work! Dates of events will be sent out each half term.



## Encouraging Independence

In Year Two, children are encouraged to become increasingly independent. They are expected to come into their classroom on their own and put away belongings independently, as well as handing in their homework. It is sometimes difficult for children to remember to change their reading book or return money or letters to their teacher, therefore we ask parents to encourage their child to hand in letters or money directly to the class teacher or teaching assistant. We are unable to check book bags every day. However, if there are urgent matters that require our attention please encourage your child to hand a note to us at the door or telephone the school office.

Children are also expected to collect their belongings independently at the end of the day, including jumpers and cardigans.

**Please ensure that all clothing is clearly named. Please check clothes regularly as some name labels fade or get washed away.**

## How can I help?

At South End Infant School, we are fortunate to have supportive parents and carers, so here are a few things you can do to assist your child on their learning journey.

**Reading** with your child frequently for short periods of time is **essential to their learning** e.g. five minutes or more, can be very effective, especially to support their work on phonics, or practising sight words if applicable. **Without this support children find it very hard to access many areas of the Year Two curriculum.** Alongside this, it would be beneficial to discuss the grammar element of the texts to support your child's ability to verbalise their understanding of sentence structure. The grammar covered in Year Two is at the back of this booklet. To support their comprehension, you will find a range of questions that you might consider whilst reading with your child, at the back of this booklet. When reading with your child please make sure they have recorded the date and title of the book. In addition, we would appreciate you making a brief comment on how they read the book. Please initial in the Yellow Home School Book to show that the child has read to you.

**Homework** is set in Year Two to support your child's maths, phonics, speaking and listening work. You can support your child by helping them with their work, ensuring that they understand what they are doing and by getting the work into school on time. For the termly show and tell please help your child to present their work at an appropriate volume for a larger audience and help them understand the information they are imparting. **Printing a sheet from Google is not sufficient!**



# At School

## Reading

Children read individually with class teachers, teaching assistants and voluntary helpers.

When we feel that your child is ready, we will assess them on an 'unseen' text, which includes 'comprehension style' questioning. This enables us to make an accurate judgement as to whether they are ready for the next level. Please bear in mind that your child is also assessed on the structure and grammar of the text, therefore it will take a little longer for your child to reach the next reading band, as there are extra criteria to achieve.

The curriculum is very busy, but we aim for your child to read individually **or** in a group with an adult as often as possible. We recognise the importance of daily reading and this happens in a variety of ways during the school day. Your child will be exposed to a range of valuable reading experiences, not solely reading scheme books. We encourage children to read at home so they can have that additional quality focussed time.



## Writing and Phonics

**Sentence structure**, use of **grammar** and **punctuation** is paramount. Through a variety of genres, we will be using the grammar terminology from Year One and Two to develop ideas and content. We have attached a list of definitions for your information.

The teaching of regular phonics is crucial to your child's development as an effective reader and writer. We will teach phonics every day, revising Year One phonic phases and progressing even further through the phonic phases, providing support for children who require consolidation on specific areas and extending those children who are working on higher order reading skills. We encourage the children to use their phonic knowledge in their writing and this includes sounding out words using their fingers as sound buttons. However, our main focus when marking will be on the punctuation and content of your child's writing. Please value your child's work, even if it is hard to decipher sometimes. We want our children to be confident, independent writers, without worrying about making mistakes.

## Spellings

In Year Two, our spellings will be related to our phonics teaching in school, the learning of the common exception word lists and our golden words, which we have enclosed for your reference. You will see they will have a 'Super Spellers' book in their book bag. Your child will be receiving spelling tasks, where they will be applying their spellings into reading and writing both at home and in school. These tasks will be issued on a regular basis and will provide opportunities for all children to achieve. Our aim is for your child to become a confident speller, who can identify the links between phonics, reading, spelling and writing. You will receive further information in September.

## Book bags and Home School Reading Books

Please note that we only look in the Yellow Home School books when we are reading with your child (unless we have written to you and are checking for a response). If you need to notify the class teacher of a matter of importance, please phone the school office. Thank you.



## Mathematics

Your child will be participating in daily mathematics lessons with their class teacher. To support your child's mathematical ability, encourage their participation in practical activities at home such as telling the time, finding the right coins when shopping, recognising shapes of packaging in the shops, counting forwards or backwards on the way to school etc. Your child will receive homework for maths every week. This will vary in format: a learning task, a challenge or a worksheet based activity. Please support your child with this work.

## P.E.

P.E. days are going to vary this year due to a more flexible timetable. Please ensure that your child's P.E. kit remains in school at all times. We will put the class days for the following week in the display board outside Poplar class.

Your child will be going outside in their PE kit so we ask that you remember to include a pair of **tracksuit bottoms** in their bag.

Earrings must be removed for P.E. lessons. ***If your child cannot remove earrings independently, please take them out on P.E. days. Teachers are not allowed to take out earrings for health and safety reasons.*** Consequently, your child will be unable to participate in a P.E. lesson if they are unable to remove earrings. Please ensure that if your child is going to have their ears pierced that this is done at the beginning of the Summer holidays. **Long hair should also be tied back every day to avoid our hair visitors!**

## Spare Clothing

Please make sure your child has spare underwear and socks in their P.E. bags. Children usually feel more comfortable with their own clothing should they need it.

## Birthday Assembly

Birthday Assembly is held every Friday afternoon. Children who have had their birthday during the previous week can bring in a card and a present to show but please refrain from allowing your child to bring in valuable presents as we do not want these to be broken or lost.



## Show and Tell

You will receive a letter explaining our show and tell. The theme will change each half term. The first letter will be sent home before the Summer holidays. Each child will be given a specific date to give a short presentation on a theme that supports our learning in the classroom. This is part of the speaking and listening curriculum so we would appreciate your support in helping your child with this work.

### **Toys and watches**

Toys should not be brought into school unless for Birthday Assembly or on teacher request. Children in Year Two are allowed to wear a watch as long as it does not distract them from their learning.

### **Jewellery**

Children are asked not to wear jewellery as it may catch or break. Items will be removed and kept until the end of the day.

### **Head Lice**

Please check your child's hair every week and treat when needed. Thank you.

### **Absences**

We are legally required to have an explanation for all absences. Please phone the school from the first day of absence to let us know about the reason/s. If you have phoned the school, there is no need to send a letter of explanation. It is helpful to write a letter/note to your class teacher if you know your child will be arriving late or if you need to collect your child early due to a medical appointment.

It is our school policy that if your child is sick or has diarrhoea they should be kept at home for at least 48 hours after the last bout of illness.

### **Medical Needs**

Permission for administering medication will be granted at the discretion of the Head Teacher or Deputy once a **pink medical form** has been filled in by the parent or carer. These forms are available from, and must be returned to, the school office. Medication must be handed in via the school office and not to the class teacher please.

### **Parent Helpers**

We welcome any extra support that parents/grandparents and other voluntary helpers can offer. Let us know if you would like to help and we can discuss Police Check arrangements and discuss with you how you would like to be involved. We also welcome any skills that helpers are able to offer. If you cannot help on a regular basis, you may be able to help when we take the children out on an educational visit. We need parent support to take children outside the school grounds on walks and visits to various places that enhance the curriculum. Other help such as filing is really appreciated too!

### **Library**

Our library is stocked with a range of fiction and non-fiction reading texts that your children can bring home and share with you. Your child will be able to choose a library book most weeks on a **Thursday** after half term, so please be sure that your child's book is in their book bag ready to be changed. We encourage your child to read for pleasure and/or find out information with you or independently.

Library books will be checked in and out electronically so please take care of them otherwise we will need to charge for any damages or losses.

## Assessment

As you are aware Year Two is an important year in your child's school career for assessments. We will be regularly assessing your child throughout the year to track their learning. In the Summer Term 1 your child will undertake some 'special work for the Year 3 teachers', more commonly known to you as assessments. Your child will be assessed on their knowledge of grammar, spelling ability, reading comprehension and mathematical skills. At no time do we tell the children they are taking tests. This work is **statutory**, but we do them in small groups in as a relaxed a manner as possible. These tasks support our teacher assessments; they do not override our judgements. It is **imperative** that your child is in school during the month of May to take part in this special work. It is more distressing for them if they have to do the work on their own, so please try to work with us on making this month fun. We will be asking you to sign an acknowledgement form agreeing to your child being in school in May. At this time of the year your child may have a specific piece of homework given to them or none at all!

## Keeping you informed about your child's progress and working together.

Each term you will be sent information about the main areas of learning, activities and dates for your diary. There will be times throughout the year that we will invite you in after school to see a piece of work that your child is particularly proud of so you can see how they are doing.

You will also have the opportunity to share information about your child's progress and interests during 'Consultation Evenings' held twice a year and through the use of the consultation forms. You will also be invited into school for two open evenings where your child can share their work with you. At the end of the year you will receive your child's school report. This is very detailed and shows both academic and social progress. During the last term you will be given a Parental Questionnaire so we can obtain your views. We read these carefully and use your suggestions and comments to develop future planning and organisation. Some of the information you have been given is as a result of your valuable feedback – **Thank you**.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information and for working with us in a partnership of learning for your child.**

Please regularly check the display cabinet, outside Poplar class, for notices because our aim is to keep you up to date and informed.

