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Welcome to your new
Phase 2 - Year 2 and Year 3
Newsletter

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Welcome to a new school year in Years 2 and 3. We hope you had a lovely, relaxing summer and had the opportunity to enjoy the good weather. A special mention to our Year 3 children who have made the move from KS1 to KS2 and a very warm welcome to our new families.

You may have noticed that this newsletter goes out to parents of children in 'Phase 2'. After much discussion, we have reorganised our classes to better support the children in their journey through school.

Phase 1: Early Years and Year 1 are together in a phase in order to smooth the transition from the Early Years curriculum to the Key Stage 1 curriculum.

Phase 2 bridges the transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2.

Phase 3 sees Years 4, 5 and 6 working together as the children develop greater independence in their own learning.

For this year only, the classes will continue to follow the topics which link to their old phases. This gives us time to review, develop and plan our curriculum to make it relevant and exciting for the children in their new phases.

Teachers

The Phase 2 leaders and Year 2 teachers are Mrs McKenna (Monday – Wednesday) and Miss McCormack (Thursday and Friday).

The Year 3 teachers are Mrs Gulliver (Wednesday - Friday) and Mrs McNichol (Monday – Wednesday, covering Mrs Jach's maternity leave).

Welcome Meetings

There will be a Welcome Meeting with your child's teachers on Tuesday 11th September between 2:30pm and 3:15pm. This is an opportunity to say hello, find out what your child will be doing in their year group and ask any general questions.

Communication

During the week beginning 15th of October there are parent / teacher consultation meetings planned, when we can discuss your individual child. If you wish to talk to us about your child before then, feel free to pop in at the end of the school day, make an appointment via the planner, phone school or email.

Our email addresses are:

suzie.mckenna@york.gov.uk

mary.mccormack@york.gov.uk

alison.gulliver@york.gov.uk
katy.mcnichol@york.gov.uk

Reading

Reasons to read a book:

1. Reading a book helps to develop imagination and empathy.
2. Reading improves vocabulary, sentence structure and language skills.
3. Reading slows down the heart rate and reduces feelings of stress.
4. Reading a book increases knowledge of the world and the people in it.
5. Reading can be done quietly by yourself or is a lovely way to spend time with someone else.
6. Children who read regularly tend to achieve better in school.
7. Reading improves your memory.
8. Reading is a cheap and portable lifelong hobby.

In Year 2 we will continue to build on the phonics and spelling from Year 1 and continue to develop reading and comprehension skills. Most children will be following the reading scheme as well as choosing their own books from the library.

In Year 3 some children will leave the security of the structured reading scheme. This is a crucial time when children may need support to choose appropriate books which interest and excite them.

It is sometimes assumed that, once a child can read, they no longer benefit from reading with an adult. However, research shows that children who continue to read with an adult are more likely to have better comprehension skills and be readers as adults. You are your child's best role model and can have a great influence on their reading ability and understanding. Therefore we would encourage sharing a book, and talking about the content, with your child for a short time as often as you can.

All children have a new Primary Planner. Please sign the planner and write when your child is ready to change their book.



Library Days

Year 2 and 3 will visit the library every Wednesday.

Homework

Half termly homework menus will be sent to you by email. There will also be a copy of the menu in the homework book for you to sign and date weekly. Homework books will be sent home every Wednesday and must be brought back to school the following Tuesday.

There is no expectation for the children to record their homework. However, the book may be used to practise maths targets, share photographs or include pictures and writing as appropriate to the task.

Spellings will be sent home each Monday to be learnt for a quiz on Friday.

Curriculum

This term Year 2 will be learning about Heslington – now and in the past, and Year 3's topic is The Tudors. To find out what we intend to cover in more detail, please look at the school website in the next couple of weeks. (The website is currently being updated, therefore the topic overviews may not appear straight away.)

Forest School

Year 2 – first half term, each Tuesday.

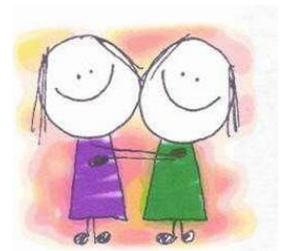
Year 3 – second half term, each Friday.

We go outside whatever the weather. It is essential that children have warm and waterproof clothing and shoes.

PE

Year 2 PE is on Thursday and Monday (2nd half of each half term).

Year 3 PE is on Tuesday (with PE specialist, Mr Holmes) and Thursday.



PE may be indoors or outdoors, and we expect children to have their full kit as detailed on the website and in the planner. We recommend that PE kit is brought to school on a Monday and then left in school until Friday, as some weeks there will be additional sessions. Earrings must be removed for PE. If your child cannot remove their own earrings, please can they not wear them on PE days? If their ears have only recently been pierced, and therefore the earrings cannot be removed, please can your child bring some medical tape to cover them during PE sessions?

Art

Please can your child bring in a named old t-shirt / shirt for art activities.

End of the School Day

Just a reminder to the Year 3 parents that, at the end of the day, the children will come out of school into the playground independently. If they forget something, please send them back in to get it themselves. If a parent/carer is late, the children come back into school and a member of staff will take them to the school office to wait.

Year 2 children will be handed over to parents at the classroom door.

Best wishes,

The Phase 2 Team

Cont...



Katy McNichol

Suzie McKenna

Jane King

Mary McCormack

Alison Gulliver

Useful Dates

Training Day - Friday 26th October

Half Term - from Saturday 27th October to Sunday 4th November

Phase 2 Christmas Performance - Wednesday 12th December 2pm

Phase 2 Christmas Party - Tuesday 18th December

Visit to Pantomime - Wednesday 19th December

End of Term - Friday 21st December