



Dear parents and carers,

10th September 2020

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you all to Class 2, some for the first time and some for the second year, and to provide class information that I hope you will find useful.

Firstly, I am delighted to report our Year One children have amazed us at how easily they have made the transition into their new year group and also how our Year Twos have come back with a great attitude to learning. All children have shown a life affirming happiness to be back in school. We couldn't have asked for a better start.

My aim is to make sure we continue in this way by providing each child with an educational experience that is purposeful, meaningful, engaging and fun. I will do my very best to ensure each child is safe and happy while also progressing academically and socially.

Routine is very important for young children and we try and stick to a timetable in Class 2 that the children are familiar with. Reading is an important part of this, whether that's the children choosing a book to look at independently, small group guided reading and comprehension sessions, whole class storytime, or individual reading with an adult.

We will make sure we listen to each child read on a one-to-one basis once a week, more if time allows. Your child will be sent home with two colour banded books (linked to their reading ability) and a phonics-related book each week to help bed in the work we are doing in school. Please send them into school in a bag with your child each day and we will change them as and when necessary.

We encourage parents to be involved in developing their child's reading ability by sharing books together at home and finding time to listen to them read, making a quick note in their reading diary. A few minutes each day will make a huge difference and will better equip the children to meet the requirements of a curriculum that is rich and demanding.

There will also be a focus on helping the children improve their ability to speak in coherent, full sentences and extend their vocabulary knowledge with lots of speaking and listening sessions and by encouraging the children to become word collectors. The more words they have, the more knowledge they will have, and this will help in all areas of learning.

Phonics, maths and literacy are also timetabled in each morning. The afternoons are more flexible and we will cover science, history, geography, art and design, RE and PHSE (personal, health, social and emotional) through a mixture of topic work and play. (Our topic this term is All About Me). There will also be free choice time where your child will be able to play and socialise with their peers. For more detailed information about what we will cover in class this term, please see the Class 2 Medium Term Plan overview.

For homework, the Year Twos will be given spellings to learn each Monday (from next week). There is no need to send the spelling sheet back to school, but there will be a short test the following Monday during their phonics lesson. For now the Year One homework is to ensure lots of reading!

With this age group, we try and keep maths as practical as possible and we encourage the children to think about maths in the wider world, for instance, recognising numbers on road signs/houses, counting in 2s as they go upstairs, handling small amounts of money to buy treats, weighing objects in the kitchen, and talking about the time (hour, half past, quarter past and to) and how it links to their routines at home. We

follow the popular and highly acclaimed White Rose Maths scheme in KS1 and KS2.

Our PE sessions will take place twice weekly, on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kits (weather appropriate) on those days as we are not allowed to change in school at the moment.

A quick word about snacks. Class 2 children are usually entitled to a piece of fruit each day which the children eat during storytime at the end of the day. Most children bring in a healthy snack or a small amount of tuck shop money each day so they can have a bite to eat at morning break. Named water bottles (containing water only please) are encouraged.

The school office has information about Breakfast Club and Kids' Club arrangements and can deal with queries relating to school lunches.

I would ask that you let me or school know of any changes that might arise at home over the course of this year that could impact your child so that we can best support them in school.

Please be assured that given the current Covid climate, we are doing all we can to make sure your child and those around them remain as safe as possible. This involves frequent handwashing and social distancing where possible. Our risk assessment is regularly reviewed and is available for parents to see on the school website.

Finally, I am very fortunate to have Mrs McNeil once again as the class teaching assistant. Mrs McNeil has many years' experience and will do her absolute best to support the children in their learning. We are both really looking forward to providing all the children with a stimulating and enjoyable year and we thank you for your support.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any matters I can always be reached in the first instance via email jane.helliwell@castlecarrock.cumbria.sch.uk and will be happy to arrange a suitable time to speak with you.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Helliwell and Mrs McNeil.