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Head Teacher: Mrs L Hinkley

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Class 2

This letter is to replace our usual welcome evening so I can pass on the usual information. This term will involve a lot of assessing your children so we can imbed and secure any skills that they missed during their time away from the classroom.

Reading

Reading Books

For now, your child will bring one colour banded reading book a week, please keep this book at home all week and then make sure it is returned the following Friday. I will then leave the book for the weekend so that on Monday we can use them to read in class.

Guided Reading

Guided reading takes place weekly in Class 2. The children are grouped according to their needs and are taught the different skills they need in a shared session once a week. They complete comprehension the following day.

Whole Class/ Year Group Reading

In larger groups we share a class text which is read out by the teacher. This is a great way to focus on comprehension skills rather than decoding.

Phonics and Spelling

Phonics

In year one we continue to teach the phonics programme used in reception. This involves digraph sounds from phases 2, 3, 4 and 5. For the first few weeks we will be recapping and revisiting phase 3 and 4 before we move on to phase 5. This phase introduces alternative digraphs for the sounds they learned in reception e.g ai, ay, ey and a-e. I will email you some information on phase 5 before we start.

At Whitminster we group your children according to their individual needs rather than their age or year group. This allows us to support your child where necessary and extend their learning.

In year two we consolidate spelling words using the phase 5 sounds learnt in year one and also start to move on to spelling and grammar rules.

Common Exception Words (Tricky Words)

We call them tricky words because these are words which do not sound out using conventional phonic sounds, or words your child has not learnt the phonic sound for yet. Each phonics phase has a list of tricky words for children to learn through sight recognition. For example, Phase 2 tricky words: the, to, no, go, I, into.

Phonics Assessment

In June all year one children will be asked to take an assessment based on the phonics sounds from phase 2 to phase 5. It will assess their blending skills and phonic knowledge. More information will be sent out regarding this closer to the time. But in the mean time please encourage your children to sound out any words they can and correct them if they make mistakes.

The current year two did not sit this year one assessment due to Covid19 and will be taking it in Autumn 2020 instead.

Spelling

Alongside a good phonics programme, year one and two will also be taught new rules for spelling.

This will be taught alongside phonics through both English lessons and discrete sessions. I will send a list home of these rules so you can see the expectation for your child's year group.

Homework

Due to Covid we are trying to limit the paper trail that goes between home and school. For the time being I will email homework on a Friday evening which will link to the work we have been doing in class, I will try to find a balance between online activities and worksheets. I will also use purple mash quite often as children can complete and save activities that I can see and respond to. It is very simple to use and I will send login details out soon.

Reading At Home

Please can you support your child's reading by listening to them read their book at least 3 times a week. They can also read their phonics sentences as well as practising their digraph sounds and common exception words (tricky words). Please note that as they work through reading books your child may come across a sound that isn't embedded yet or a word they haven't learnt yet. We teach children to use lots of strategies for unfamiliar words, sounding out is the first but also using the context of the sentence to make a sensible guess. It is perfectly acceptable to tell your child a word they don't know. Re-read the sentence again and see if they can remember it, or spot it again on another page.

Phonics Homework

I will either set a worksheet or activity on purple mash that is linked to the sounds we will have practise in class.

If your child does any writing at home, do support them to use phonics. They are not familiar with all the sounds and spelling patterns yet and so unless it is a tricky word it is best that they practise the skills they do have and make a phonically plausible attempt.

Maths Homework

Maths homework will be linked to work in class that week, I will either set a worksheet or an online activity to complete.

Relationship, Sex and Health Education

The teaching of RSHE is now a statutory requirement in primary schools. In Class 2 we split the children in to year one and twos and teach the programme of study separately. There is a series of four lessons that we cover in Summer term 2. I will send out copies of the session closer to the time so you can see what we are covering before we start.

Communication

Please feel free to email class2@whitminstercofe.gloucs.sch.uk if you have a question or a query. If you would like to speak me about anything it is better if you see me after school as I have more time.

PE Kits

Please send your children to school wearing their PE kits. If they have their ears pierced please remove them before they come to school and make sure they have their hair tied back. If your child has just had their ears pierced I can show them how to tape them until they are healed. Over the Autumn and Winter terms I'd suggest trainers over daps and leggings or joggers over shorts as we they will be wearing them all day and going out to play in them.

Our days for PE are:

Autumn Term 1 – Tuesday

Rest of the year (After October half term) - Monday

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

Miss Gardiner ☺