



CURRICULUM NOTES – 2011/2012

YEAR 2

May we wish you and your children a warm welcome to Year 2. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Summer break. All the children have settled well and we are looking forward to a happy and productive year.

General

School Uniform

You should have received an up to date school uniform list, if this is not the case, please ask for one at the front office. Please ensure your child has the uniform required and that **all** items are clearly named. When the cold weather arrives later this term, children will need a **(named)** coat suitable for wearing at playtime. It is very helpful if large hanging loops can be sewn into boiler suits and coats so that they are easily and securely hung on the pegs.

School Arrival Time

- The Pre-Prep is open from 8.15am. The children arriving between 8.15 and 8.30 will be supervised by a member of the Pre-Prep teaching staff in their classroom. For Health and Safety reasons children cannot be left unsupervised in corridors or classrooms before 8.15am.
- Dropping-Off – during Year 2 we are aiming for the children to become more independent and would like them to be able to make their own way to their classrooms in the mornings. We appreciate that on a Monday morning when they have their P.E. bags to carry they may at first require help bringing them to the classroom. Being able to use the dropping-off system also eases congestion on the drive, as there are fewer cars that need to be parked.

School Lunches

There is a wide selection of food available for the children. Kitchen staff, teachers and classroom assistants are all on hand throughout the lunch period to supervise and help the children. Should you have any concerns about your child and lunchtime please speak to your child's class teacher. Any food allergies should be noted with matron who will inform staff.

Playtimes

Pre-Prep children have a 20-minute playtime in the morning (10.00am – 10.20am), half an hour immediately after lunch (12.25pm – 12.55pm) and a 15-minute playtime most afternoons (2.15pm – 2.30pm).

Named Boiler suits and **named** wellington boots are required for playtimes. Wellington boots are stored in a 'Welly Boot Storage Area' with each child having their own named box.

Assemblies

There are three assemblies each week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and a Hymn Practice on a Friday. The Monday and Wednesday assemblies are teacher-led and Friday assemblies are 'Celebration Assemblies', where all the children in Pre-Prep get the opportunity to share examples of good work or behaviour. Awards are given to individuals and individuals are congratulated for earning a target of 10 classroom stars. Each of the Pre-Prep classes also performs their own Class Assembly. The Year 2 assemblies are in the Autumn or Spring Term. These generally start at 9.00am and last for approximately 15 minutes; more precise details will be sent out to you nearer the time. We very much look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at your child's Class Assembly.

Clubs and TASC (The After School Club)

- Activity Clubs (Chess etc) run from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. The children are taken from their class to the relevant clubs, by a teacher or classroom assistant. Enrolment for these clubs is on a termly basis. You will already have received the letter detailing this term's after school activities.

- TASC – Takes place in the portacabin next to the school uniform shop. At 3.35pm, children who have been booked in are taken to TASC by a teacher or classroom assistant. Please notify the School Office if you think you are going to be unavoidably late, in which case your child will be taken to a Pre-Prep club and your account will be charged accordingly. At the end of TASC (5.30pm) children who have not been collected are taken to the Library.

Parental Help in School

We are very keen to invite any willing volunteers into school to help in the classroom. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are interested in helping with reading on a regular basis or maybe coming in to help occasionally with subjects such as Design Technology when several adult helpers are always very useful!

End of Key Stage One Assessments

Year 2 is an important year, with Key Stage 1 assessments taking place later in the year. We will keep you fully informed of when they will be and of any additional help you can give, should you wish to help prepare your child for them.

Pre- Prep Department Marking Policy

Corrections of spelling and punctuation errors will be dependent on both the ability of the child and the objective of the piece of work in question. On certain pieces of work a system of coding indicates whether the work has been carried out, for example, independently or with adult help, with or without apparatus etc.

LLD

Mrs Sue Symons co-ordinates special needs teaching and is the key point of contact for parents who wish to enquire about learning support for dyslexia or other related issues. Some children are on special programmes known as Individual Educational Plans which Mrs Symons helps in writing. She attends school on Mondays and Tuesdays and may be contacted by email at: s.symons@hallgrove.co.uk

Parent Interviews

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's teacher if you wish to discuss any issues concerning your child. Alternatively, you can ring the school office to make an appointment for a mutually convenient time. Individual Parent Interviews will be held during

October, when we will be able to tell you how your child has settled into Year 2 and discuss general progress.

Timetables and Topics

We have attached a copy of our class timetables for your information.

Games/PE

As you will see from the timetable Games lessons take place on Mondays and Fridays, P.E. on a Tuesday. Please ensure your child has the relevant kit (**clearly named**) in school on those days. There will be no swimming until the Summer term.

Subject Topics

Listed below are details of the topics covered in the various subjects in Year 2.

We are very happy for your child to bring in any books, artefacts or materials relevant to any of this term's topics. Also, should any of you be willing to come in to school and share with the children any knowledge you have of any of the topics, we would be delighted to have you. Just let us know!

Topics – Autumn Term

Science	<i>Changes in Materials and Electricity</i>
Geography	<i>None this term</i>
History	<i>Past Events: The Great Fire of London, Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.</i>
RS	<i>Special Things, Hinduism and Christmas</i>
Art	<i>Self-portraits, topic related artwork, firework safety posters and Christmas art</i>
DT	<i>Designing and Making Vehicles</i>
PSHE	<i>Building Healthy Relationships and Building Healthy Bodies</i>

Topics – Spring Term

Science	<i>Health and Growth and Forces and Movement</i>
Geography	<i>South Africa – A contrasting locality overseas</i>
History	<i>The Final Frontier (space exploration)</i>
RS	<i>Family Celebrations and Buddhism</i>
Art	<i>History and Geography related artwork</i>
DT	<i>African Puppet making</i>
PSHE	<i>Building healthy environments and building healthy communities</i>

Topics – Summer Term

Science	<i>Variation in Plants and Animals and Plants and Animals in the Local Environment</i>
Geography	<i>Going to the Seaside and The Isle of Struay</i>
History	<i>What were Seaside Holidays like in the Past?</i>
RS	<i>Stories told by Jesus continued and A Church: A Place of Worship</i>
Art	<i>Mother Nature related artwork and Raoul Duffy – Regatta at Cowes</i>
DT	<i>Designing and making a seaside related project</i>
PSHE	<i>Building a healthy future and keeping safe and helping others</i>

Literacy Teaching – this will take place daily and will be based on the objectives set in the National Primary framework. Guided Reading sessions will be on a Friday. Individual reading will take place at least three times per week. The children will continue to have daily phonics sessions to introduce and reinforce spelling patterns following ‘Letter and Sounds’ as a framework.

Numeracy Teaching – this will take place daily. The Pre-Prep bases their Numeracy teaching on the National Primary Framework. At the end of each unit, the children complete a Maths assessment test. Once the children have settled we will begin a weekly test devised to improve the children’s recall of number bonds (both addition and subtraction) and then during the Spring Term the learning and testing of times tables facts will begin. Helping your child practise these at home is very valuable.

Music, Dance/Drama, French, ICT and Games/PE are timetabled each week and are taught by specialist teachers.

Homework

During Year 2 the children will be set the following weekly homework:

- ❖ **Reading:** A set Reading Book will be sent home Monday to Friday as required. The Reading Diary, which will accompany this, should be completed and signed each night and returned to school Monday to Friday.
- ❖ **Spelling:** New spelling lists of words to be learnt will be sent home on a Wednesday to be practised on a regular basis throughout the week. Spelling tests and a short dictation will take place on a Wednesday. The spelling lists will comprise a number of high frequency words and a number of words based on a phonic spelling pattern.
- ❖ **Literacy:** Worksheets linked to the spelling and general literacy work covered in class during the week will be sent home on a Friday to be returned by the following Tuesday.
- ❖ **Numeracy:** A worksheet linked to the numeracy work covered in Year 2 will be sent home on a Tuesday to be returned by the Friday.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read these notes. I hope that the meeting and notes have provided you with all you need to know about Year 2. Should you have any questions or queries that have not been answered please do not hesitate to ask. Research and experience show that the most effective learning comes as a result of a partnership between parents, child and teachers. We are very keen to work together with you, to ensure that your children have learning opportunities in Year 2 which allow them to make the necessary educational progress in an interesting, creative, pleasurable and fun way! We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Kind regards to you all.

Mrs Leech and Mr Honey