



CURRICULUM NOTES – 2019 / 2020

YEAR 2

We would like to wish you and your children a warm welcome to their final year in Pre-Prep. The work that the children will be doing in Year 2 will be preparing them for their transition into Year 3 but will always be set at an appropriate level for your child. Mornings will be reserved for English and Maths. There will be a 25-minute break when the children will be able to relax and get ready for some more work to follow. There is a 45-minute play after lunch. Then the afternoon sessions will be filled with various topic activities.

Arrival Time

The Pre-Prep is open from 0815 and lessons commence at 0845. The children arriving between 0815 and 0830 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 0815.** Throughout 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. Being able to use the dropping-off system also eases congestion on the drive, as there are fewer cars that need to be parked. Those requiring additional morning supervision must arrange it through the Boarding House. Breakfast is available from 0730 – 0830 each morning.

Home Times

The procedure for going home at the end of the day is well established and it is very important for you to follow it and thus ensure the safety of your child. Please arrive by 1540 to collect your child. If you arrive earlier please park up at the A30 end of the drive (before the barrier) and wait until the time that children come out onto the drive before joining the queue of cars. Please do not park on yellow lines. You may park either at the top of the drive and walk down, or on the field side of the collection area, but not on yellow lines as this blocks sight lines of the road crossing. Children must be closely supervised at all times, and they are your responsibility once they have left their teachers. Extreme care is to be taken crossing the drive to parked cars, small children held firmly by the hand.

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 discuss it further with your child's class teacher and any food allergies should be noted with matron who will inform staff.

Playtimes

Pre-Prep children have a 25-minute playtime in the morning (1100 – 1125) and a 45-minute playtime immediately after lunch (1230 – 1315).

Named black coats, waterproof trousers and named wellington boots are required for playtimes.

Assemblies

In line with the ethos of the school, we follow the Christian year whilst acknowledging other faiths. Each assembly ends with a period of quiet reflection. There are three Pre-Prep assemblies each week and a Singing Lesson on a Tuesday. All 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. Each of the Pre-Prep classes also performs their own Class Assembly. These start at 0900 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

Activity Clubs run from 1545 – 1630. The children are collected from Afternoon Tea by the relevant club or by 360. Enrolment for these clubs is through 360.

360 sports education

If you wish your child to attend 360 please book them in online through 360 sports education.

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 perhaps coming in to help occasionally with subjects such as Design Technology when several adult helpers are always very useful!

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. Children will be encouraged to self-evaluate their work where appropriate.

Learning Support

Hall Grove is a non-selective school and we welcome children of all learning abilities save those who need highly specialised intensive support. The Learning Support Team is Mrs Gilly Harris, Mrs Tamara Laws and Mrs Alexandra Moore. We believe that the strengths of every child should be celebrated and it is understood that some may require specific tools or learning interventions at different stages of their journey through the school in order to achieve their best and become well rounded confident individuals. The Learning Support staff work closely with both class teachers and parents and we are committed to enabling every child to achieve his /her academic potential. Please contact Mrs Laws should you have any queries regarding learning support.

Timetables

We have emailed timetables for your information.

Games/PE

As you will see from the timetable Games/PE lessons take place on Monday and Thursday. Children need to bring their kit bags to school every Monday and will take them home on Fridays. Please ensure your child has the relevant kit (clearly named). There will be no swimming until the Summer Term.

Curriculum

English: During English lessons the children will be taught reading and spelling strategies and handwriting.

They have the opportunity to select a reading book from our reading scheme to bring home. This graded scheme contains a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and is aimed at consolidating the reading strategies your child is taught at school. The texts are appropriate for the child to be able to read fluently and hence develop a greater love of reading and better expression. There may be a rare occasion when the book chosen by your child to read independently at home could prove more challenging than usual. Please help him/her with the more difficult words by discussing the text and illustrations in the book.

The school reading scheme is only a small part of an individual's total reading, so please introduce your child to a variety of books. Your child will have the opportunity to visit our Junior Library each week and select one book of their choice. We would also encourage trips to your local library, as learning library skills is an invaluable life skill.

Pupils will be expected to learn spellings each week using the 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' method. The choice of words is based on common spelling patterns and high frequency words prescribed by the Letters and Sounds Framework. They will be introduced and reinforced through daily phonics and spelling teaching. The spellings will be checked and consolidated through various activities on a regular basis, so that your child's knowledge is sustained and the correct spelling of these words is applied in their written work.

In Pre-Prep we now follow the Hemispheres Think Write program when teaching the cursive style of handwriting. It follows a hierarchical series of targets, enabling children to join their letters when ready and increase the speed at which they record their work.

Maths: This will take place daily. At the end of each term, the children complete a Maths assessment. Throughout the year we will teach a variety of mental maths strategies, including number bonds (both addition and subtraction) and multiplication and division facts. Helping your child practise these at home is very valuable.

Topics

We adopt a cross-curricular approach to our teaching and learning. 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!

The main topics that we cover in Year 2 are:

Autumn Term: Fame, Fire and Fortune and The Solar System and Beyond

Spring Term: Around the World and Chocolate

Summer Term: Island Destinations and Hunting Habitats

Specialist Teaching:

Dance/Drama, French, Music, 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.

Additional topic-based homework will be set throughout the year and will be communicated through the Home/School Diary.

Parent Interviews and Appointments

Individual Parent Interviews will be held on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October, when we will be able to tell you how your child has settled into Year 2 and discuss general progress.

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment or come to see us after school hours if you wish to discuss any issues concerning your child. Such meetings provide the teachers with invaluable information, especially now at the beginning of the school year when the children are in the process of settling down. However unimportant or trivial it may seem to adults, to the child it might be very important. Please inform us via email if your child is going home with someone else, either on a regular basis or on a one-off basis. We already have a list of children going to clubs so this is not necessary.

We ask parents visiting school to sign in and out at the School Office at the front of the school. We also ask that if you need to pick up your child, drop them in late or return them, you do so via the School Office. This means that in case of fire or emergencies we are aware of all people in school.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read these notes. I hope that the meeting and notes will provide 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,

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