



CURRICULUM NOTES – 2020 / 2021

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 35-minute play after lunch. Then the afternoon sessions will be filled with various topic activities.

Arrival Time

The Pre-Prep is open from 0830 and lessons commence at 0900. If your child has an older sibling, they are welcome to arrive at the same time. There will be a Pre-Prep classroom open for them from 0730. ***For Health and Safety reasons children cannot be left unsupervised before 0730.***

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 1530 to collect your child, unless you have arranged with the class teacher, an alternate time to pick up siblings together. 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.

School Lunches

There is healthy balanced meal for the children each day. 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 Mrs Jackson who will inform staff.

Playtimes

Pre-Prep children have a 25-minute playtime in the morning (1100 – 1125) and a 35-minute playtime immediately after lunch (1245 – 1320).

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

Assemblies

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, our weekly 'Celebration Assemblies' will take place through Zoom, in our separate classrooms. All the children in Pre-Prep will get the opportunity to share examples of good work and behaviour. We will celebrate good behaviour and work with 'Bees of the Week' and certificates.

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 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 Harris should you have any queries regarding learning support.

Timetables

You will receive emailed timetables for your information.

Games/PE

As you will see from the timetable Games/PE lessons take place on Tuesday and Thursday. Children need to come to school dressed in their white PE kit. Please ensure they are dressed appropriately for the weather and wear black tracksuits over the top if necessary.

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.

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 know that children are often keen to bring topic based books and objects from home, but please refrain from this during the current pandemic.

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:

French, Music, Games/PE are timetabled each week and are taught by specialist teachers. As we settle into our new routines this year, these lessons will be taught observing social distancing guidance at the time.

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.

Home/School Diary

We will be sending home a blue home/school diary which we encourage you to use for communication between parents and teachers. These will be checked daily. Additional topic-based homework will be set throughout the year and will also be communicated through the Home/School Diary.

Parent Interviews and Appointments

Individual Parent Interviews will be held on Tuesday 13th October 1600-1800 and

Wednesday 14th October 1700-1900, 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 over Zoom, or over the phone 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.

Home Learning

In the event your child's 'bubble' needs to isolate at home, we will provide learning resources, activities, and videos via 'See Saw', our online learning platform for this age group. We will also provide some live lessons via a video link on a regular basis. If your child is isolating due to another family member needing to isolate until the necessary tests come through, we can provide some simple activities to complete via 'See Saw' too. Your child's login details will be sent home in their book bag. Please set their account up as soon as you can.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read these notes. I hope that the Parent Briefing Video 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,

Miss Lucy Porter

Miss Kirsty Dunnage

Mrs Tina Wilson

2LP Form Teacher

2KD Form Teacher

2KD Form Teacher (Friday only)

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