



## CURRICULUM NOTES – 2021 / 2022 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. If your child has an older sibling, they are welcome to arrive at 0800, and there will be a Pre-Prep classroom open for them. **For Health and Safety reasons children cannot be left unsupervised before 0800.**

### **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 1550 to collect your child but 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 45-minute playtime immediately after lunch (1230 – 1315).

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

### **Assemblies**

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 year groups perform an Assembly. These start at 0915 and last for approximately 30 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 performance.

### **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**

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 Friday. 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. 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, Games/PE and Music are timetabled throughout the 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.

## **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 be communicated through the Home/School Diary and Seesaw.

## **Parent Interviews and Appointments**

Individual Parent Interviews will be held on Tuesday 19th October 1700-1900 and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 1615-1815 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.

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

2KH Form Teacher/Pre-Prep Section Leader

[k.hitchcox@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:k.hitchcox@hallgrove.co.uk)

Miss Lucy Porter

2LP Form Teacher

[l.porter@hallgrove.co.uk](mailto:l.porter@hallgrove.co.uk)