



# Welcome to Year 2

**We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 2, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.**

## Year 2 Staff

Mrs Charlotte Fagg (Butterflies Class Teacher)  
Miss Amy Ricketts (Ladybirds Class Teacher)  
Mrs Penny Coles (Butterflies Class Teaching Assistant)  
Mrs Carol Brooker (Ladybirds Class Teaching Assistant)  
Mrs Samantha Ellis (Ladybirds Class Teaching Assistant)

**Release/PPA cover** - Both classes will be covered by supply staff once a fortnight.

## Year 2 Expectations

In year 2 we encourage the children to be independent in the following ways:

- They should enter the classroom on their own and start the first task of the day independently. If you need to speak to us, you can either pass on a message via the member of staff who is on the door that morning or write a note in their reading record. Alternatively, we will be available on the playground after school for any further concerns.
- To be responsible for their belongings, this includes PE bags, lunch boxes, snack pots, clothing and homework books.
- To be responsible for organising themselves.
- At the end of the day we will be leading the children out to the main playground. It will be the children's responsibility to find the person who is collecting them or remain with the teacher if they cannot.

We also have higher expectations of the children now and you may find that they are tired when they get home. You know your child best, so please ensure that they have the amount of sleep they need.

## Year 2 Curriculum

English and maths will be taught on a daily basis, with the other subjects covered throughout the week. The children will work in a variety of different groups, these may be based upon attainment, friendship or their house groups. This provides the children with a wider opportunity to interact with all of the children in the class and this provides work better suited to their ability. These are likely to change on a regular basis and this is nothing to be concerned about. In addition we will be setting across the year group daily for mathematics and letters and sounds and you will be notified if they are moved into another set.

English will be taught in classes as we believe it is important to ensure that literacy skills are firmly embedded into other subjects such as science, history and geography which are currently taught in whole class groups. The skills the children acquire can then be more thoroughly reinforced through the writing produced in other subject areas. More cross curricular teaching may also take place where links will be made between literacy and other subjects. For example a literacy unit on poetry may be taught through a history topic or spelling and phonic patterns may be explored through writing in science. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best literacy skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons.

Details of the curriculum that your child will be studying during the academic year can be found on the school website. On the website you will also find leaflets to help you support your child with their homework and their spelling.

### **END OF KEY STAGE 1 ASSESSMENT**

End of Key Stage One assessment will take place in May and will assess reading, maths, spelling and grammar. Children's levels for writing will be based on classwork evidence only throughout the year. With regards to the testing conditions, we present a relaxed attitude to the children so that they are able to approach them in a relaxed and confident way. We would be grateful if you could adopt this attitude too as we do not want to put the children under any unnecessary stress.

### **School Trips**

We hope to enrich the children's learning experience this year through some school trips. We realise that school visits have a cost implication but they are of benefit to the children and enhance their learning in the classroom. We will provide you with as much notice as possible regarding trip details.

### **Reading Books**

The teaching of reading takes place in the literacy sessions and during the group/guided reading. Please encourage the children to read a variety of books, comics, information books, TV guides, signs on the roads, packets in supermarkets etc. Reading is not just about decoding words, we encourage the children to talk about the book, discuss characters and develop understanding or inference. A comment about each child's reading will be written in the home contact book each time they read with an adult at school.

Parents are asked to hear their child read regularly, children are able to change their books as often as they have read them (daily if required). Parents are asked to indicate when they have listened to their child read in their homework diary - this could be a simple tick, smiley face or signature, or a more detailed comment if you prefer - please remind your child to put their book into the reading diary boxes in the classes if they need to change them.

**It is our observation that children who read regularly at home, and therefore read a wider range of texts, tend to demonstrate greater progress in reading, writing and spelling!**

Please remember that the home reading scheme is not a ladder to be climbed as quickly as possible! We will be encouraging children to read a range of different genre, as well as being able to demonstrate a good understanding of what they have read before we move them up a level.

### **Homework**

Each week the children will stick their homework into their book on a Wednesday which is when they will bring them home. Homework should be completed and handed back in the following Monday to ensure work can be marked before books are handed back out again. We do encourage children to have a go at doing the homework as this will support their learning in the classroom. We do ask that parents do NOT complete the homework for the children as it has no benefit to them.

### **Spelling and phonics.**

Spelling and phonics is an important part of the curriculum at Godinton. In year 2 all children will be focusing on phonics work, this will be a suitable phase from the Letters and Sounds scheme matched to the children's ability. As the year progresses some children may move onto exploring other spelling rules and strategies whilst others might continue to develop their phonetic knowledge. Phonics work is currently taught in ability groups for four 20 minute sessions per week. Please check the website in able to support your child further with the phase they are working on.

### **Equipment and Resources**

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide all the basic equipment for the children in the classroom; this includes pencils, pens, rulers, glue and scissors. If children are inconsiderate about the use of school equipment this will need to be replaced at a cost to parents. This includes home reading books and school library books.

### **P.E**

Children will have timetabled PE twice a week with an indoor and an outdoor session. PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday morning and taken home on a Friday.

**It is essential that PE kit should consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsols for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. A tracksuit is also required for outdoor PE in colder weather as we will only miss our outdoor session if the weather conditions are extreme.** All items should be fully named.

If your child wears earrings they must be able to remove them themselves for PE, no child will be allowed to participate if they cannot remove them.

**Ladybirds PE lessons take place on a Thursday and Friday**

**Butterflies PE lessons take place on a Wednesday and Thursday**

### **Celebration Assembly**

This will take place weekly on a Monday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Every fortnight a child from the class is chosen as the Citizen of the Week and invited to a tea party with Mr Holditch and Miss Talbot.

### **Healthy Snacks and Water**

Children may bring a healthy snack for morning break on a Friday but are only permitted to have fruit or veg from Monday to Thursday mornings. Fruit or vegetables will be provided for the children for their afternoon snack. Children are allowed water to drink in their classrooms throughout the day. This should be provided in a 'Godinton Water Bottle' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle, no larger than 500ml.

### **Speaking to School Staff**

Children are expected to come into school independently in the morning. First thing in the morning is not an ideal time for parents to talk to staff as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. We escort the children onto the playground in the afternoon and this is a good time to catch us if the need arises. Many minor problems can be sorted out this way. For more important matters an appointment can be made via the school office.