



Mrs Fagg's  
**BUTTERFLIES**



Mrs Clark &  
Miss Marsh's  
**LADYBIRDS**

# 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)

Mrs Kerry Clark/Miss Julia Marsh (Ladybirds Class Teachers)

Mrs Carol Brooker (Year 2 shared Teaching Assistant)

## Release/PPA cover

Butterflies class will be covered by Mrs Lisa Collins once a fortnight.

Ladybirds class will be covered by Mrs Anne McGoldrick 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 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 including changing their books daily or once they have read them and writing their new book name in their reading record.
- 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.

## Year 2 Curriculum

Details of the curriculum that your child will be studying during the academic year can be found on the school website. To locate this information simply go to the 'Information for parents' section and then click on 'Curriculum'. In this section you will find details about our topics and the areas that the children will be studying. This section of the website will be updated at the start of each new topic.



We endeavour to make as many links to our topic in our studies throughout the curriculum and our weekly timetable is flexible, taking into account various visits, celebrations, visiting speakers, etc.

### **Maths**

Maths will be taught on a daily in ability groups across the year group. Maths will always be taught in the morning and details of the coverage for each set can be found on the school website.

### **English**

We will continue to teach English lesson as a whole class 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. Writing will be taught in mixed ability class groups, by your child's own class teacher, where the work will be differentiated for the varying ability groups within the class. 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 English and other subjects. For example a unit on adventure story writing may be taught through a history topic or the development of spelling patterns may be explored through writing in science. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best writing skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons.

### **Reading**

Reading in the classroom will take place daily through a variety of reading activities. These may take the form of class, group or individual work. We would ask parents to hear their child read regularly (ideally two or three times a week) and write a comment when they have listened to their child in their reading record book. We expect the children to have both reading books and reading record books in school every day. We would like children to change their reading book regularly but this will depend on the size of the book they take home. A comment about each child's reading will be written in the contact book by school staff following their reading sessions. This is in addition to the internal on-going assessment and record keeping systems that we use within school. Our aim is to encourage all children to read as often as possible and for the children to develop a life-long love of reading. 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.



## **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 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.

### **Homework**

One piece of homework will be set each week and this will either be maths based or English/topic based. Homework will be set on Wednesdays and 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 complete the homework as independently as possible as this will support their learning in the classroom. We do ask that parents do not complete the homework for the children. This will help us to see your child's understanding.

Regular reading, spelling and the retention of number facts and multiplication / division facts are essential in the development of English and Maths skills as they underpin many concepts.

Younger children need to be developing their skills of sounding out words, blending sounds together to develop fluency. Discussing the content of the story with the children is also important. As children become fluent readers, it is still important to read regularly and discuss events in the story, the vocabulary used in the story and consider why an author has used a particular word and the effect it has on the reader. Children also need to develop their inference and deduction skills; considering the mood of a character or his/her personality based on the evidence or clues within a text.

The ability to recall number facts at speed contributes greatly to many areas of maths. With speedy recall, children are able to make greater links between facts e.g., If you know  $4 \times 6 = 24$ , you can quickly calculate  $40 \times 6 = 240$  and  $40 \times 60 = 2400$ . Knowledge of these facts also enables written calculations to be accurate and there are also many links to be made to fractions, decimals and percentages.

As part of weekly homework this year, we want to place a greater emphasis on the children practising these skills. Therefore, they will become the core element of homework. Children should be reading at home at least several times a week, practising spellings regularly and rehearsing number facts or as they get older times tables. There are many different online games and activities to help support these activities.

During the Autumn term, we are intending on subscribing to a new online system for Maths homework called, MyMaths which will enable all homework to be set and completed using



either a computer or tablet. Further details regarding the launch of MyMaths and how to use the site will be sent in due course.

For further information about the school's homework policy, please see the 'How can I help my child' section on the school website.

### **Spellings**

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.

### **Equipment and Resources**

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. Children may bring their own pencil cases to use, however these need be small enough to fit in their trays, and they must understand that it is their responsibility to take care of it.

### **P.E**

Children will have timetabled PE twice a week with an indoor and an outdoor session.

**Ladybirds PE lessons take place on a Wednesday and Thursday.**

**Butterflies PE lessons take place on a Monday and Tuesday.**

Your child's PE kit should be in school every day. It is essential that PE kits consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsols for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. A tracksuit is useful for outdoor PE in colder weather as we will only miss these sessions if the conditions are extreme. **All items should be fully named.** If your child wears earrings these **must** be taken out for PE. Any child, who cannot remove them, will not be allowed to participate in PE sessions.

### **School Trips**

As part of our Grand Designs topic, we visit Canterbury Cathedral and this has been booked for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. This builds upon their learning about structures as well as linking with both RE and art. We also hope to book another visit later on in the year to link with our Around the World topic in terms 4, 5 and 6.



### **Celebration Assembly**

This will take place on a Thursday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Also every fortnight a child from each class, who has demonstrated one or more of the key values of our school, will be invited to a tea party with Miss Talbot.

### **Healthy Snacks and Water**

Children may bring fruit as a snack for morning break from Monday to Thursday and can bring in a healthy snack (cheese, yoghurt etc) on Friday. Children are allowed **water** to drink in their classrooms. This should be provided in a 'Godinton Water Bottle' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle, no larger than 500ml which has their name on. All water bottles must have a sports cap to help reduce spillages.

### **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 unless we are running an after school club, this is a good time to catch us and many minor problems can be sorted out at this time. For more important matters, an appointment can be made via the school office. We hope that you find this information helpful and we look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year.