

## Year Two Parent Meeting

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Year Two parent meeting. For those of you who were unable to attend, please find some useful information below. The meeting focused on how to support your children as readers and the PowerPoint used during the meeting can be found on the school website.



### Home Learning

All the home learning we set will positively impact your child's learning.

**Reading:** To become fluent, confident, life-long readers it is crucial children practise their reading skills every day. We recommend children reading to you for 10 minutes (either reading a book or practising individual letters and digraphs), as well as you reading to them. They are not too old for a bedtime story ☺. Please remember to record this reading in their Reading Record book.

**Spelling:** On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, your child will bring home a 'Spelling Booklet' that contains the spelling rule/phonics rule and words your child should learn for the following week. The booklet also contains some suggested games and activities that you could use or play, to help practise these spellings in a fun/meaningful way. As in Year One there are different levels of challenge – one chilli is to learn two words, two chillies is to learn six words and three chillies is to learn all eight words. Just like in Year One, your child will take part in a spelling check during the week (typically between Wednesday and Friday). As a further challenge, your child may be encouraged to spell words that are not identified in the spelling book but that do follow the spelling rule for that week.

### First Half of the Autumn Term

**Mathematics Skills:** On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, a booklet to develop and improve your child's core Mathematics skills will be sent out. Each week your child will have a short ten question check on a particular skill as identified in the booklet. The booklet contains differentiated practical ideas and internet links to support them while learning/improving each skill. When relevant there will be 'To dos' on Purple Mash for your child to complete. In order to fully embed each skill, your child should practise it for 5-10 minutes every other day, rather than just once, the day before the check. Each page (and skill) is dated to ensure you focus on the correct skill for that week. Some children could challenge themselves with the 'chili challenge'!

### Second Half of the Autumn Term

Instead of sending out home learning on a weekly basis, we will be trialling and sending out a "home-learning menu" with a variety of challenges and activities for your child to choose from for the whole of the second half of term. Details regarding this new way of setting home learning will follow later in the term.

### Trip to Brighton and the Sealife Centre

We are all looking forward to our first school trip to Brighton and the Sealife Centre on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September! All three Year Two teachers visited the site to carry out a risk assessment and organise the workshop. If you have volunteered to go on the trip it is important that you do have a DBS check. If you have had a DBS check in the past for previous trips, it is important that you self-registered at the time to enable you to update your DBS for this trip. Please see Mrs Palmer in the office if you are unsure or need to complete an initial DBS check. There should be no cost to you for the checks We will be having a meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 2.40pm for those parents accompanying us to share the learning the children will be doing, how you can support them as well as our expectations of behaviour, safeguarding and your responsibilities on the trip.

### Show and Tell/Sharing

We currently have many children bringing in items from home which they would like to share. While we appreciate the value this has on children's confidence and speech and language, we do not have a lot of 'free time' to allow all the children who want to share their belongings to do so. We do kindly ask that children only bring in items occasionally, which relate to an achievement, our topic or class animal and we do ask for your patience if your child is not always able to share something immediately on the day they bring it in.

## Jewellery

Please remember that at Horley Infant School, children are not permitted to wear jewellery, which includes earrings. If their ears are pierced they **must** remove the earrings before coming to school. Children are able to wear a basic analogue (not digital) watch to help them learn to tell the time.

## Year Two Friday 'Club'

Every Friday afternoon, your child will participate in a different activity, which this term includes: Recorders, Yoga, Gardening and Eco, Country Dancing and Art. They will have the opportunity to participate in each activity once every half term. Friday Club has become a very popular addition to our timetable and enriches the children's learning in a variety of subjects. We want the children to have the opportunity to experience a variety of activities and maybe inspire the next Banksy, Charlie Dimmock or even Steven Hawking 😊.

## Book Bags

Please ensure your child has their book bag in school every day. Please also ensure your child's book bag has a visible name so that it can be found easily, rather than no name or one that is covered in stickers.

## Year Two jobs and Office Duty

As your child is now in Year Two, there are several jobs and responsibilities they will be undertaking such as ringing the 9am bell and taking lunch trolleys down to the hall. These jobs are all designed to develop independence and responsibility. Each class will have the opportunity to assist the administration team during lunchtime doing Office Duty. During this time, they will be in a group of two or three children in the school office, answering the telephones between 12.45 and 1.10. When your child is on office duty, please call the school as they love being able to talk with you. This term Dolphin Class will be on Office Duty. A timetable stating when your child will be on duty is on the classroom door.

## Independence

We would appreciate it if your child could take responsibility for taking letters, envelopes, money etc. that needs to go to the office out of their bookbag and put it into their class office box or basket. This would help prepare them for Junior School and develop their independence. If there is something important or urgent that needs to go to the office, you could give it to your child directly as they come in so it is sure to make its way to the office. In order to make this simpler for your child, please only keep Year Two books in their bookbags. Anything they had or used in Reception or Year One, such as sound cards should be taken out. The following are the only books that currently need to be in their bookbags: Home-School Link Book, Reading Record book, colour coded reading book and spelling book. Their Mathematics Skills Booklet and Spelling Booklet could either remain in their bookbags or be kept at home to refer to. Please also check their bag every day so that letters do not build up, resulting in important communication being missed. Every day Mrs Barnes, Mrs Doyle and Mrs Care check the Home School Link Books for notes.

## Junior Schools

While your child may have just started in Year Two it is important that you begin to think about next year as **there is no automatic transition to a Junior School.** Even if you have older children at your choice of Junior School, you will still need to apply. The application window opens on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and the deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 but **PLEASE** don't wait that long. Every year there are avoidable upsets when we have children without a school place, as their parents did not apply before the deadline.



And finally, please remember our door is always open and we really do want to hear from you. Similarly if you are able to help/volunteer in school. There is no such thing as a silly question. If you have any concerns or worries we would much rather hear them as soon as possible.

Thank you

The Year Two Team



Katharine Staples & Susi Care  
Dolphin Class



Emily Ritchie & Jackie Doyle  
Turtle Class



Ellie Day & Sue Barnes  
Penguin Class