



11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Year Two Parent Meeting

We hope you found our virtual meeting helpful; it was very strange for us speaking to a camera rather than a hall full of parents. We also hope it answered any questions you sent in or may have had. If you haven't yet seen the 'video/meeting' it can be found in the Year 2 section on our school website. 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. Along with the PowerPoint, the information we shared with you can be found below.



### 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 11<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. When relevant there will be 'To dos' on Purple Mash for your child to complete. As in Year One there are different levels of challenge – one chilli is to learn four 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 follow the spelling rule for that week.

### First Half of the Autumn Term

**Mathematics Skills:** On Friday 11<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 that is also taught and practised in school. The booklet contains differentiated practical ideas and internet links to support them while learning/improving each skill. 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 'chilli challenge'!

### Second Half of the Autumn Term

Instead of sending out home learning on a weekly basis, we will be 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. This style of home learning was trialled with Year Two last year and feedback from both parents and children was very positive. Details regarding this new way of setting home learning will follow later in the term.

## **Seaside Day**

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September, we will be having a 'Seaside Day' to kick-start our topic for the first half of the Autumn Term. We will be carrying out some fun but also educational activities that day as well as having a proper Punch and Judy Show. On that day we ask that your child dress up in clothes they would normally wear to the seaside, fingers crossed for some sunny weather ☺!

## **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. Plastic spacers are available in the school office if needed.

Children are able to wear a basic analogue (not digital) watch to help them learn to tell the time.

## **Year Two jobs and Office Duty**

For those of you who have had older children at the school you will be aware that Year Two are normally given many 'special jobs' and responsibilities such as holding open the doors for assembly, delivering the fruit or carrying out 'Office Duty'! The children felt honoured and took pride in carrying out these jobs. Unfortunately, because of the need for social distancing and keeping children in their Bubbles we are not able to offer the children these experiences for the time being. We will obviously encourage them to take responsibility for themselves and the school in other ways, and are constantly thinking of different ways to make this year special for Year Two, now that they are the eldest in the school.

## **Volunteers**

While parents in their role as parents are not permitted in the school building, we are able to accept volunteers! If you would like to volunteer in school, we are always happy to welcome you ☺, so please let us know.

Many parents who have come into school to support children in the class, listen to readers and help with filing etc, have found it to be an extremely valuable experience for both themselves and their child. You could volunteer on a regular basis or a more ad-hoc basis when you have a spare morning, afternoon or hour. We are very friendly and are happy to accommodate you with whatever you feel comfortable in doing.

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> November and the deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 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

Thank you



Katharine Staples, Susi Care

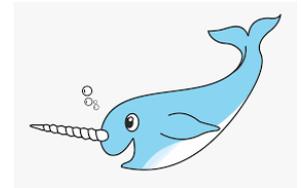
& Vicky Church

Octopus Class



Emily Henty & Nicole Crowley

Otter Class



Anna Hill, Rachel McLaughlin

Jackie Doyle & Lucy Alton

Narwhal Class