



Dear Parents,

3rd September 2020

We hope you have enjoyed your summer holiday and that your child is enthusiastic to return to school as an Octopus, Otter or Narwhal! The end of last year was a bit different to say the least and while we weren't able to have our usual 'Swap Over Day', we have worked hard with the Year One team to ensure a smooth transition.

We are looking forward to working with your child (and you) this year and want to make this year as normal as we possibly can, while still keeping children in bubbles and as safe as we can. Children are incredibly resilient and what might look different at first very quickly becomes the new normal. We will address any worries the children might have on returning to school but we won't dwell on it as this can sometimes make children feel they should be worrying about something when they really weren't.

What would be incredibly helpful, particularly in the first week, is letting us know if your child is anxious generally or has a specific worry. It will be difficult to have private conversations at the door due to social distancing, so please send us an email to year2@horley.surrey.sch.uk so we can fully understand how to help your child settle in to Year Two. Please do not send us messages on Studybugs as it can be difficult to monitor messages coming in and we would hate to miss an important message from you. Your child's happiness and mental health is paramount which is why we chose to have 15 children in at one time for the first few days so we can focus on making sure they are confident and happy. Of course, there will be many children who are simply excited to be coming back to school and have no worries at all; please do not feel like you have to send an email to us unless you feel it would help your child.

This term our topics are **The Seaside** and **Amazing Animals**. We have included a topic web with this letter explaining the curriculum areas we will be covering; this is also on our school website.

We have planned a Seaside Day for Monday 21st September to generate enthusiasm for their learning and the topic. On that day your child is encouraged to wear clothes they would normally wear to the seaside.

We will also be making our own seaside aquariums using a shoebox, so if you have not yet thrown away this year's new shoebox, please keep them; we will need the boxes later in the term, thank you.

PE

This year, for PPA, the children will be taking part in Multisport lessons run by George Hyde on a Wednesday, which was a very popular activity last year. As we will be going outside for PE, it is important your child has clothing suitable for both warm and colder weather, e.g. shorts as well as tracksuit trousers. They will also need trainers rather than plimsolls. **This year we are asking children to wear their PE clothes to school on their PE days to avoid them having to change during the day and it also reduces things being brought into school.** We will only be having PE outside, so it really is weather dependent. We will not go outside if it is raining (as the children won't have any other clothes to get changed into if

they are wet and we want to avoid any unnecessary colds) but we will go outside if it is cold and make sure we are moving around!

All children in Year Two will need to wear their PE clothes on Wednesday and Thursday. PE will start next week so please make sure their PE kit is ready. Octopus class and Otter Class will also need trainers on Friday afternoons so either bring them to school in the book bags or they could wear them all day.

Year Two Friday 'Club'

Every Friday afternoon, your child will participate in a different activity, which this term could include: Cross Country, Tennis, Computer programming, Gardening/Forest School, Yoga, Art, Basketball and Kick boxing. The activities available differ between the three classes due to space in the school, the weather and available resources. We expect all children to participate in two activities each half term, and have the opportunity to enjoy a varied mixture of activities throughout the year. 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, Andy Murray or Kelly Holmes 😊.

As one of their Friday Club activities this term Narwhal Class will be having a Nature Club. Every Friday for the first half of term starting on Friday September 11th, children in Narwhals will need to come to school in shoes that are suitable for the outside **and** that you are happy they might get muddy! They could bring in a pair of wellies and get changed if you prefer, and maybe even a pair of waterproof trousers.

Reading Books

Just a reminder that in your child's book bag you will find their Home School Link book and Reading Record book. Please take a moment to read the information glued to the inside of these books. If you have a question you need answered or any other concern please email us year2@horley.surrey.sch.uk or write it in the Home School Link book and leave it in the box outside your child's classroom.

The Reading Record book is where book titles and comments regarding your child's reading should be written by you. We will be looking at the Reading Record books on a weekly basis.

To reduce items being brought back and forth to school, colour banded reading books will be given out differently this year.

Every Friday your child will be given two books in an elastic band to read over the weekend. These books need to be given back to school the following Monday. We will then leave these books 'in quarantine', so they can be safely given to a different child the next Friday. Every Monday we will give your child four books in an elastic band for them to read during the week. These books must be given back to school on Friday, so they can be quarantined and given to a different child the following Monday.

This does mean that sometimes all the books for a particular colour will have been given out or are in quarantine, which means if books are not returned on the correct day (either Monday or Friday) we will unfortunately not be able to give your child more books to read. We will also do our best to give your child a different pack of books each week, but we will be relying on them to remember if they have read a specific book. Re-reading a book can be

a positive experience as it helps children become more confident and familiar with tricky words and it helps you as the parent ask more complex questions since you will know the story. However if your child repeatedly brings home the same set of books, please let us know 😊. Don't forget you can also use Bug Club which is a fabulous resource, has differentiated books to meet your child's needs and also includes questions to develop their comprehension. The password for Bug Club is the same as the Purple Mash one, which is stuck inside your child's home school link book.

Book Bags

As reading books will be changed every Monday and Friday only, it is **not** necessary for your child to bring their book bags to school every day. Please only bring your child's book bag in on Mondays and Fridays. We would appreciate it if any letters for school are put in the basket outside the classroom door as school staff will not be opening and looking in book bags this term. Occasionally a child may need to retrieve a letter that was accidentally left in their book bag, to make it easier for them to find, please only keep Year Two books in their book bags. 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 book bags: Home-School Link Book, Reading Record book, colour coded reading books and spelling book. Their Mathematics Skills Booklet and Spelling Booklet could either remain in their book bag or be kept at home to refer to.

'Parent Meeting'

We will not be having a parent meeting in the hall as normal, but we will be uploading a video of us holding a virtual parent meeting to our school website on Friday 11th September. This is an important opportunity for you to learn more about what and how your child will be learning this term so it would be extremely beneficial for you to watch it at some time. As there would normally be an opportunity for parents to ask questions at the meeting but in the planned format that wouldn't work, if you have a question you would like an answer to please email it to us by Wednesday 9th at 12.00 and we will endeavour to answer it during the 'meeting'. We will be recording the meeting after school on Wednesday so will need the questions before then. The meeting is aimed at parents so you may want to watch it without your child.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

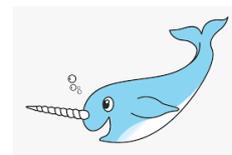
Thank you



Katharine Staples, Susi Care
& Vicky Church
Octopus Class



Emily Ritchie & Nicole Crowley
Otter Class



Anna Hill, Rachel McLaughlin
Jackie Doyle & Lucy Alton
Narwhal Class

Year Two Diary Dates – Autumn Term 2020

September

Thursday 3rd – Group A back to school!

Friday 4th – Group B back to school!

Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th – Group A in school

Wednesday 9th & Thursday 10th – Group B in school

Friday 11th – Everyone in school 😊

Friday 11th – Year Two Parent Meeting uploaded to school website

Friday 18th – Jeans for Genes Day

Monday 21st – Seaside Day

Monday 28th – Individual photographs

26th October – 30th - Half Term

November

Monday 2nd – INSET - School Closed for children

Tuesday 3rd – Back to School

Friday 13th – Children in Need Day

Monday 16th – Friday 20th - Anti Bullying Week

Monday 16th – Friday 20th - Road Safety Week

December

Friday 18th – Break up for Christmas at 1.45