



Welcome to Kingfisher Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone and to the start of Year 2! I have been so pleased to see all the children come in with big smiles on their faces and happy to be back with their friends. Year 2 is a wonderful year with lots of learning and fun activities along with the chance to develop further independence and start to take on greater responsibilities.

Teaching staff

I will be teaching Kingfisher Class, with the support of Ms Stanford and Mr Lucas. During my planning time, the class will be led by Mrs Dalgliesh, with the same support team.

PE

PE and Games lessons are on **Wednesdays and Fridays**. Children **come to school in PE kits on their PE days**. Plain, black hoodies should be worn. We will, of course, inform you in advance of any changes to our PE days.

Reading

In a change to the Year 1 procedure, in Year 2 the children take responsibility for changing their own reading books, once they have progressed past the phonic readers. As much as possible, they should be heard to read each night and this needs to be recorded in their reading diaries, noting the date, page number reached, and a comment on your child's reading or discussions about the text.

Shared reading and discussion of stories is crucial in developing a wider understanding of the world around us and as the year progresses, should begin to become the focus of your home reading sessions rather than the actual word decoding. Please encourage your child to read with expression, and to give opinions about the characters in the story, the plot, and what might happen next. Reading diaries will be checked regularly by myself or a teaching assistant.

In class, we will develop reading skills through group, whole class and 1:1 readings and will focus on fluency, phrasing, retrieval of information and inference.

Spellings

Following our move to the CUSP Spelling Programme, children no longer bring home a weekly spelling list to learn for a test. Instead they are explicitly taught a spelling concept over a 2-week period, and bring home a practice sheet based on either the same concept or revision of previous learning to complete once a week (Fridays).

Maths

Please help your child with their mental recall of numbers to increase their confidence and speed. This could include counting forwards and backwards from a given number, breaking numbers into tens and ones, bonds to 10 and 100 or simple addition and subtraction problems. These quick-recall activities are great for long car journeys or bath times! It is also of great help to complete lots of practical real-life maths e.g. measuring when cooking and baking, handling money and looking at shapes in the world around us. Please also work on telling the time at home, Year 2 is a great time for a first watch! The children can also practise their maths skills on the Mathseeds website. Logins to follow.

Home Learning

Each **Friday**, your child will receive spelling and maths homework, **to be returned by the following Wednesday**. It should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete both tasks. There will also be an independent learning project set in the Spring term: more details will be provided nearer the time.

Children are encouraged to bring in any relevant resources from home related to our learning, or achievements for sharing and celebrating as necessary, however there is no regular “show and tell”.

Equipment

The children only need a book bag or a small rucksack to carry their belongings otherwise the cloakroom gets very crowded! It is vital come to school with the correct equipment daily.

If they wish, children should bring in a **small** pencil case with: **a named pencil, rubber, sharpener, glue stick, small selection of colouring pencils and a ruler. Felt tips and gel pens are not required.** Pencil cases should fit in their tray. They certainly **do not** need large pencil cases, novelty stationery or small toys which distract them from their work. Any oversized cases may be put back into bags and sent home. Thank you for your support with this – already it is clear children are coming to school with appropriate resources and I would like to maintain this, ensuring every child is ready to learn with the equipment required for each lesson!

I look forward to working with you and your child this year and seeing you at the Welcome Curriculum Meeting (time and date to be announced). If you have any worries or queries, please do come and see me, or if easier send an email – I know lots of issues tend to come up at bedtime, so please do message then, I may not respond straight away but I will do my best to read and note any problems ready to deal with the next day.

Mrs Kim Colegate
Year 2 (Kingfisher) Class Teacher
k.colegate@tatsfieldtl.co.uk