

Dear parents,

Welcome back, I hope your summer holidays were full of fun, love, and laughter. I am pleased to return for another year at this wonderful school with such a dedicated and uplifting community. For Year 2 parents, hello again! For Year 1 parents, hello! I am very much looking forward to getting to know the latest additions to our Rainbow Room!

Our current arrangement is that English, Maths, Science and Art and Design are taught in the mornings when the classes are split. In the afternoons, when Year 3 joins us in the school classroom, we will explore topic, computing, music and RE together, alongside PE and Forest School. The exception to this will be on Fridays where the Year 3's will be joining in the morning as well as the afternoon. However, these English and Maths lessons will be dedicated to arithmetic papers, phonics activities, reading comprehensions, and handwriting sessions, as not to disrupt class teaching sequences.

Mrs Holness (prev Miss Hill) will continue to be our morning TA for the Year 1/2 class with Miss Webster joining with the Year 3 children in the afternoon. When children complete brilliant work or demonstrate excellent behaviour, they will be rewarded with a badge sent home via Marvellous Me, a positive behaviour slip, or even a shiny new sticker! Whilst homework isn't a mandatory element within my class, I will occasionally set tasks over half-terms to inspire future learning or continue current learning. I especially encourage all children to read as much as possible at home, therefore we ask that children have an opportunity to read or be read to at home daily.

We have our buddy system in place again, where Reception and Year 1 children have a buddy higher up in the school – the Year 1's are buddied up with Year 5's. These buddies will be assisting children through transitions throughout school, such as at the beginning of break times and lunch times. We will also be implementing reading buddies which will encourage the younger children to read and to be listened to by the older children in the school. This will boost their confidence and self-esteem.

In English, Year 1 and 2 will explore a range of high-quality texts in each term. This half term we will start with a poetry book by the well-loved Shirley Hughes called Out and About. Then in the next half term we will look at traditional tales, including a modern take on the tale Rapunzel by Bethan Woollvin. For our science topics we will look at materials and seasonal changes. In art, we will begin with some of the great artists in history, including Monet, Van Gogh, Metzinger and Joan Miro. Children will be making art works inspired by famous pieces. As we move closer to Christmas, children will begin their Christmas crafts also.

For Years 1, 2 and 3 Geography, we will focus on the changes in weather. We will then move on to locational knowledge, discovering the 7 continents, 5 oceans and the UK countries. In History, we will discuss Black History Month and then move on to looking into the Victorian Era, specifically Kings and Queens around this period and even comparing their toys to ours. In computing we will look at technology around us and then look at creating digital photography.

Children will have a song to focus on for each half term for their music lessons – this half term is Hey You!, by Joanna Mangona and after October it will be Rhythm In The Way We Walk and Banana Rap also by Joanna Mangona and Jane Sebba, although we will become more occupied with learning Christmas songs. They will study PSHE/RSE, RE, Science, and PE weekly, alongside adopting our recently implemented phonics scheme Little Wandle as directed by the newly revised Letters and Sounds. These sessions will continue to be delivered daily for children to support early writing and reading. The majority of the Year 2s will be using this session to complete activities and focus groups on spellings, punctuation and grammar, including a weekly spellings test. Children will receive their

new list of words on a Monday and will be tested the following Monday. These informal tests will encourage children to take accountability for learning their weekly spellings and familiarise them with the testing procedure. Each set of words will be based on a spelling rule suitable for their year group.

We have had a change around of the timetable for this new year which has resulting in the following changes. Our Forest School slot will take place during Friday mornings and PE will be on Thursday afternoons, however PE kits will be required in school every day. Please make sure all items are labelled with your child's name. Please also remember that the colder months are approaching, and your children will need to bring in waterproof clothing for forest school. Our Sharing assembly has also been moved to a Monday morning, as you have been informed.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to get into touch.

Kind regards,

Miss Bartrum

Mrs Holness (Former Miss Hill)

Miss Webster

Class Teacher

Class Teaching Assistant

Class Teaching Assistant