Dear Parent/Carer,

For your child to make good progress in Year 2 we need your help to support your children’s learning at home. Just 10 or 15 minutes a day can make a real difference.

**Reading:**

It is important that you read **every day** with your child ensuring you ask questions about the text to improve their comprehension skills.

Here are some suggestions for ways you can support your child’s reading development at home:

- Read bedtime stories to them, talk about the pictures & discuss what they notice and how this relates to the text.
- Encourage your child to listen to themselves reading and monitor how accurate it sounds and whether it makes sense.
- Share a story by reading alternate lines, paragraphs or pages with your child. This modelling is vital to their development.
- Draw your child’s attention to features of the book/text such as the title, authors name, blurb, paragraphs, chapters and punctuation marks.
- Practise reading and spelling some words that appear in the text. You can do this through simple games, such as making words with magnetic letters or challenging them to create as many words as they can from another word, i.e. “how many words can you make from elephant?”
- Check your child understands the meaning of new words. We are aware that sometimes young readers read quite complex words easily but without understanding their meaning.
- Discuss any exciting words that the author has used and why this helps to make the text more interesting.
- Encourage your child to attempt to work out any tricky or unknown words and support them in using strategies such as self-correction
- Ask your child if they can predict what the book will be about as they look at the cover and title. As they read, ask them if they can predict what might happen next. How might the story end?
- Discuss the characters- Are they friendly, mean, kind? How do you know? What do you think the character would do? (give a situation from story)
- When you have completed a book ask your child what they have enjoyed about the text. Did they like it? Encourage them to develop an opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons.

To encourage your child with their reading, we have a star chart in class. **When they have read 5 times or more in a week, and it is recorded in the Home-school book they will get a star on their chart and a prize at the end of the week.**

We will hear your child read once a week in a group reading session and each half term we will hear them individually and review their reading levels.
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**Spelling:**

- Practise reading and spelling all the Year 1 *Common Exception Words*.
- Practise reading and spelling Phase 3 and 5 graphemes individually and within words (see attached grapheme sheets and example words lists).

**This can be done by:**

- **Look, Cover, Write, Check**
- **Magnetic letters** use them to spell words/graphemes
- **Rainbow words** - Write words in different coloured felt tips
- **Bingo games** - make a grid of 6 boxes, choose 6 graphemes/words to write in each box. Call out words/graphemes for children to tick off.
- **Spelling Puzzles** - write the words on different colours of cardboard. Cut the words apart in a variety of ways. The students then put the puzzle back together to form the spelling words.
- **Fishing for Words** - make spelling word flashcards, fold them in half and fasten with a paper clip. The cards are placed in a large fish bowl. Using a toy fishing pole or a long stick with a magnet on the end of the string, the students "go fishing" for a spelling word to practice.
- **Sculpting words** - Use pipe cleaners, twisted tinfoil, playdough or plasticine to form their spelling words/graphemes
- **Magazine letters** - children search for letters in newspapers or magazines. When they find the letters that make up the words and glue them onto paper.
- **Hopscotch** - make a chalk hopscotch game, with words written in each space. Children must spell each word before jumping to it.

When your child learns to **read** and **spell** the Common Exception Words they can complete the attached colouring sheets.

We will be testing the common exception words in small sets on a weekly basis. The words your child needs to work on will be recorded in the Home-School Record book.

**Handwriting**

Using the attached handwriting exemplar.

- Practise correctly forming both lowercase and uppercase letters, ensuring letters start and finish in the correct places with entry and exit flicks.
- Make sure the letters are the right size and placed correctly on the line e.g. descender tails under the line, ascender sticks tall and straight and capitals letters taller than all other letters.

Please don’t rush your child into joining their letters until they can correctly form each letter individually with the correct entry and exit flick (superman capes!)
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Maths:

Please practise:

- Writing digits to 100.
- Counting forwards and backwards from 10, 20, 30, 100
- Learning number bonds to 10- addition & subtraction facts e.g. $9 + 1 = 10$ $1 + 9 = 10$
  $10 - 9 = 1$ $10 - 1 = 9$
- Adding and subtracting numbers within 20
- Counting in 2’s to 20 and 10’s to 100
- Knowing the days of the weeks and months of the year
- Recognising and naming 2-D and 3-D shapes (triangle, square, circle, rectangle, pyramid, sphere, cube, cuboid, cone)
- Recognising and naming all the coins.
- Telling o’clock and half past times on an analogue clock.

List of useful websites:

- [www.topmarks](http://www.topmarks)
- [www.ictgames.com](http://www.ictgames.com)
- [www.crickweb](http://www.crickweb)