Year 2 Sycamore
Class Teacher: Miss Abdulhadi
Teaching Assistant: Ms Gangwarni

Dear Parent or Carer,

I am looking forward to teaching your child in this busy and exciting year at West Twyford. I have been a Year 2 teacher at West Twyford for three years now and I am very passionate about the children’s learning and the school community.

This termly letter is to inform you of the topics that will be taught throughout the term. It provides information about what this term holds in store for your child. It breaks down which skills, knowledge and concepts are being developed and what learning objectives are being taught.

Mathematics
Your child will continue to learn Maths through the Singapore approach which enables children to develop number sense and reasoning skills. We will continue to use this Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach to build a solid foundation for conceptual understanding. This term we will cover the following topics:

- Number to 100
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division (2x, 5x and 10x tables)

English
This term we are focusing on stories and texts about animals.

Writing
The strategy used to teach writing is ‘Big Writing’ which enables us to teach the children to produce written work that is interesting, grammatically accurate and correctly spelt. The children write at length, once a week, in different text types.
An important part of their writing is the speaking and listening activities linked to the text both in the classroom and at home. As part of their weekly preparation for ‘Big Writing’ I will be sending home weekly ‘Big Talk’ homework. This is designed to give you an opportunity to discuss your children’s writing with them and to participate in the imaginative process.

**Reading**
Reading skills will be taught in class through the ‘Big Reading’ characters. These characters help children develop their retrieval, inference and deduction skills. When reading, the children will be encouraged to read with expression and fluency.

**Reading Books / Library Books**
Library books and graded readers continue to be changed every week. This takes place on Tuesday. They will bring home two phonetically decodable reading books and a library book. The library books are for you to share with your child. Please ensure your child has a bookbag at school every day. Please ensure you read with your child daily and record this in their Reading Record book. Any lost books will need to be paid for.

**Science**
This term we will be studying Animals including Humans (offspring and needs) and Living things and their Habitats.

**Project**
This term the children will explore the topics of Animals and London.

**Religious Education**
This term in RE the topics are Special Occasions and Caring for New Life.

**Art and DT**
This term’s art will be drawing and painting linked to the project work. We are aiming to develop a wide range of art and design techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape and space.

**Music**
This is taught by Miss Parker, our music specialist. This term’s focus are Silence and Sounds and Graphic Scores in addition to learning a range of songs.

**Information and Communications Technology**
In ICT, the children will be taught E-Safety. They will also be learning how to copy and paste pictures in Word.

**Physical Education**
Your child will have two PE lessons per week – one delivered by the sports coach and one by the class teacher. The themes for PE will include balance and coordination. During your child’s games lessons we will focus on teamwork.

PE kits should be in school every day i.e. brought in to school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. Your child will need white or navy sports shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms and sweatshirt, as well as socks and trainers all labelled with their name in a named PE bag.
**Homework**
The homework set for your child is designed to support their learning in class. The school's homework policy states that your child should receive regular homework.

**Big Talk** – To give your child the opportunity to do their best pieces of writing we will be sending home Big Talk homework. This gives you an opportunity to speak to your child about what they will be writing and discuss their ideas. This helps the children practise their sentences before writing them in school.

**Regular homework is as follows:**
Tuesday: Spelling - this should be practised daily but doesn’t need to be returned. Reading book change.
Thursday: Big Talk Homework.
Friday: Literacy and Maths - this is to be returned on Wednesday.

**Please remember to use our online learning resources (i.e. Mathletics and Education City) for which your child has user names and passwords.**
There may be other additional pieces of homework from time to time.
Discussion about homework is equally useful in your home language if this is not English.

Parents are warmly welcomed to our sharing assembly each Friday afternoon at 2.45 p.m.

**Class Trips**
This term we will organising a visit to London Zoo to support our learning in Science and Project.

**Notices**
You will find up-to-date information on events in the school office and also on the school website. The newsletter is sent out by email every Friday afternoon (or a paper copy is sent to those without email). Letters with a parental permission slip will be sent out via the children’s book bags. Please check bookbags daily.

**Finally**
The support of the family is immensely important where pupil progress is concerned. Here are some of the ways you can help your child make good progress at school:
- Ensure your child gets enough sleep.
- Water Bottles - please provide your child with a water bottle that they can drink from throughout the day. Remember it needs to have a “sports top/nozzle” to avoid spillage and be labelled with their name. If your child has a packed lunch they will need a separate drink in their lunchbox.
- Ensure reading happens for a short period every day. Be a reader yourself. Encourage your child to read quietly; read to your child; have your child read to you or a sibling; talk with enthusiasm to your children about what they are reading; visit and join the local library.
- Ensure homework is done and returned on time. Encourage your child to relish the challenge of work that is difficult.
- Talk to your child about their learning. Ask them about the learning dispositions they use at school and encourage them to use them. Our West Twyford learning dispositions are: curiosity, bravery, independence, co-operation, creativity, resilience, discipline and making links.
- Praise your child for the effort they put into their learning.
I hope I have given you an insight into life in our classroom and any other issues, which you may have had queries about. I look forward to teaching your children this term, and am confident that we will have an exciting and successful time together.

Please feel welcome to make an appointment with me, Ms Collum, the Deputy Headteacher, or Miss Martin, the Headteacher, if there is anything you need to discuss further.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Abdulhadi
Class Teacher

Miss Martin
Headteacher