

Welcome to Sandpiper and Cormorant Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child and tell you a bit about your child's class and routines. Some of the information you probably already know but it is just to re-cap and to help answer any queries you might have. You will also receive a leaflet about this term's topics, this week.

Becoming More Confident

In Year 2 we place building children's confidence at the centre of all we do. We want the children to believe in themselves and their abilities. We try to be very positive teachers who build on the children's strengths. We praise those children who are behaving well and who are working hard. We try to give time and attention to all the children, support them, challenge them and give them work which is suitable for them. We hope to make school an enjoyable place where the children are motivated and keen to learn.

Reading

Reading is a fundamental part of education and in order for your child to become a successful reader we need to work together. At school your child will have an individual reading book which they will have the opportunity to change every day. The children get to choose their own book from the colour band they are reading in and need to be responsible for changing their book when they have finished it. Please could you or your child write the title of the book in to their record book; write which pages they have read at home and a comment. I hope that you will be able to hear your child read their reading book most days at home. Sometimes they will get the opportunity to read this book to an adult in school.

Your child will also take part in daily guided reading sessions. During guided reading the children will read the same book together and discuss it. Comprehension skills are developed during this session. Once a week the teacher will write a comment in your child's reading diary with suggestions for next steps. We hope you will find this useful when reading at home. At school we teach the children to read but they need lots of practice in order to succeed and your help with this at home is greatly appreciated.

Spelling Book

Each child has a book with their spellings in that they keep in their book bag. Every week the children will be given a list of words which contain some spellings linked to our class phonic work. You will notice that some of the words will contain certain spelling patterns (e.g. well, shell) and some will be high frequency words which are used a lot in children's writing (e.g. the, of, said). Every day we will be doing some phonic work which will help your child to sound out words when reading and break words down when spelling.

The spelling list will usually be given out on a Friday and the test for these words will be on the following Friday. If your child is unsure of any of the words get them to **look** at the word, **say** it, **cover** it, **write** it and then **check** it. Look at the spelling patterns and try to get them to think of other words which fit these spelling patterns. Feel free to practise them in paint, glitter pens, wet sand, on the computer or in any interesting way to motivate your child and make it fun!

We will send home the spelling test book on a Friday so that you can see how your child got on. Please return this book on Monday.

Learning Together

On a Thursday we will have Learning Together from 2.50—3.15. Learning Together will start on Thursday 1st November, straight after half term. During this session we cover areas of the curriculum and model how we teach the children. These sessions give parents an opportunity to come and work alongside their child and observe the year 2 curriculum. The first six sessions will focus on maths concepts.

Other Routines and Information

- When the bell goes, children are expected to come in to class independently, hang up their coats and bags and take their book bag to their allocated table. They start to read and if needed change their home reader.
- Spelling books and reading books need to be taken home and brought to school every day. Children are given an opportunity to practise spelling in school.
- Children are encouraged to bring in their water bottles and take them home to wash and refill each night.
- Please remember to label all your child's clothes. They are responsible for looking after their own belongings, including sweatshirts!!
- This term the children will have swimming lessons on a Tuesday afternoon so please remember to send in their kit. See swimming letter.
- Please let us know if your child is unwell and unable to attend school.

Working Together

We believe parents, teachers and teaching assistants need to work together as a team in order to help your child succeed at school. Please come and see us if you ever have any questions, comments or concerns. Just pop in after school for a quick chat or if you feel you need a longer discussion time, we can book an appointment. There will be parent meetings in the week beginning 8th October 2018, so remember to sign up. The sign up sheet will be your child's class.

We are very excited about this year and we hope your child is too. We have had a fantastic start to the term, all the children are working hard, seem to have settled well and are enjoying themselves. We hope you have found this letter useful, don't hesitate to ask if you have any more questions.

Yours faithfully

Devinder Sharma Benjamin and Emily Lewis