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Wednesday 1st September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new term and school year at Southfields! We hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday. We are so excited to welcome you all into Year 2.



Miss Newns
Year 2 Leader



Mrs Westley
Year 2 Teacher



Mrs Barnard
Year 2 Teacher



Ms Payne
Year 2 Teacher / SENCO

We have a fantastic team in Year 2 and we will all continue working hard to ensure your children have an engaging, memorable and safe time with us. We understand that starting a new school year at this time may feel slightly different, but the Year 2 team are all here to help everyone to feel as at ease as possible and to help the children to adjust to the new school routine. We are really looking forward to meeting you all and having a wonderful year together. Please take your time to read through this letter to hear more about the topics we will be focusing on this year, as well as lots of important information about new rules and routines on the following pages.

Our topic this term: Travelling through History



Let's hop into the Year 2 time machine together and travel back in time to experience significant events in history and how lives have changed over time.

Join us on our journey back in time to see how the world has changed! First we will head to London to visit the bakery on Pudding Lane where The Great Fire of London began. We will investigate what caused the devastation that overpowered the city. How did this tragedy affect people's lives and how did they come back from this? We will head to Southampton and across the seas to learn about the journey of 'The Titanic' and then discover how aeroplanes were created and what happened during the First Flight. We will become journalists, diarists, advertisers, scientists, composers and artists. We will explore new materials, discovering their properties, uses, the sounds they make and how creative we can be. We will experiment with mixing colours and textures as we create our own masterpieces across the curriculum. Join us on this fantastic journey through time!





Throughout the year we will be also be going on safari to Africa, thinking about what makes George's medicine so marvellous and using maps to find buried treasure! In Year 2 we aim to build knowledge through exciting learning opportunities and practical experiences we will always remember. We cannot wait to start this adventure with you.

Important Information



Arrival and Pick Up Times:

Children need to arrive at school between 8.40am and 8:55am. The school is continuing the staggered start time to ensure parents and children have the space to keep appropriately distanced. We would like to please ask adults to wear masks when arriving and leaving the school due to the high number of people at a similar time. Children must be dropped off in the morning at the school gate by the red and white barrier (as shown below). They will then follow the yellow Year 2 line as shown in the picture until they reach the green gate by The Beach Area where they will be greeted by a member of staff and shown into their classrooms.



Please be assured that members of staff will help your children through this short walk to their classroom and they will be greeted by their teacher.

Year 2 pupils will be picked up at 3.10pm. The children will be released from external classroom doors. Children will be released one at a time. Please see the video posted on Class Dojo to show you how to get to the Year 2 classrooms.

Uniform:

Children should wear their school uniform four days a week and an outdoor PE kit on a Tuesday. Children can still wear their own clothes on their birthday.

PE:

Year 2 PE will be on a Tuesday. Children must have their hair tied up for PE sessions and no jewellery is allowed in PE for health and safety reasons. If your child wears stud earrings and cannot remove these themselves, we recommend that you remove these before your child comes into school.





Bags, Stationary and Water Bottles:

Your child does not need to bring in a bag or stationary. They can bring in their book bag or a plastic wallet for reading and home learning books. Your child will receive a school water bottle. This should then be taken home, washed and returned to school each day filled up with water. Water bottles can be re-filled with drinking water in the classroom during the day.



Lunch:

If your child has a packed lunch, they can bring it in a lunch box or in a plastic bag. We do recommend keeping ice packs with the lunch to keep it cool and fresh. The children will be eating in the dining hall.

All children in Year 2 are eligible for Free School Meals. If your child is having a hot dinner at school this must please be booked in advance. Mrs Buck will not be able to book meals on behalf of parents anymore due to Data Protection, therefore you must book your child's meal. If you do not book a meal, then you will need to please provide one and bring it into school.

Snacks:

Fruit is provided by the school for the children at break time. If your child would like an extra snack at break time, this needs to please be brought in. This needs to please be a healthy snack and brought in separated from your child's lunch (if they have a packed lunch too).



Home Learning:



In Year 2, home learning is set on a Thursday and is due back on a Wednesday. Your child will bring home a home learning book with a menu stuck in so they can choose which tasks they would like to complete for their homework. Our non-negotiables that we expect to be completed are as follows:

- Reading to be completed three times a week (minimum)
- Phonics, spelling and online learning to be completed weekly
- Menu items are expected to be completed throughout the half term

Reading:

Reading is extremely important at Southfields and supporting your child with their reading is expected. Reading should be completed three times every week as a minimum. However, the more, the better as far as we are concerned! Reading books can be changed daily, but please encourage your child to reread their reading book throughout the week if they finish it as this supports their fluency and understanding of the text. Reading books should be kept in your child's book bag and brought to school every day.

Spellings:

This year, we will be using Spelling Shed to support spelling learning at Southfields. Each child will receive a log in for this online resource. The children will be expected to practise their spellings online and will then complete their Spelling assessment in school on a Wednesday. New spellings will be set every Wednesday. If you are having difficulties with this online resource, please talk to your child's class teacher and they will help you with this.





Similarly, if you cannot access this, please talk to your child's class teacher and they will organise a spelling book to be sent home with the new spellings in weekly for your child to practise.

Online Resources:

Your child will have access to the following sites: Bug Club (on Active Learn), Spelling Shed, Times Table Rockstars, Purple Mash, IXL and Espresso. We recommend that your child uses their membership given by the school to the best of their advantage by thoroughly exploring these websites at home. These are really amazing and can really help to support and enhance home learning. Your child's log in details have been stuck into the front of their reading record book.

Class Dojo:

We love to use Class Dojo to communicate with you at home. Please do make sure you are connected to Class Dojo and keep an eye on Class Dojo for day-to-day class and whole-school information, photos and updates of our fun learning, updates on your child's behaviour and messages from the class teacher. A key priority of ours is the relationships between teachers and adults at home to ensure that the children are fully supported at home and at school. Due to the school's Covid – 19 routines, rules and regulations and less face-to-face contact with teachers and adults at home, it is important that you please do not hesitate to communicate with your class teacher or year leader if you have any questions, comments or worries. It should be noted that this tool is to be used in an appropriate and friendly way. At Southfields Primary School we operate a zero tolerance approach to the use of inappropriate behaviour anywhere on the school site, social media or via our communication systems with parents (*Inappropriate behaviour means disrespectful conduct towards people or property within the school site or via social media).

Additional Information:

- Frequent handwashing will be a part of the class timetable each day and we have planned high levels of hygiene routines. Housekeepers have been allocated to bubbles to clean throughout the day.
- If your child becomes unwell in school with suspected Covid19 we would telephone you to pick your child up. You would then need to book and take your child for a test which can be booked online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> Once the results have been given to you, please let the school know.

I understand that this letter contains a lot of information, so please feel free to read it more and contact your class teacher or myself if you have any further questions, we will always try our best to help you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Newns (Year 2 Leader) and the Year 2 Team

