Dear Y2 Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome back the children today and we are very proud of how they have come into school ready and eager to learn. We have an exciting year ahead of us and all the Y2 staff are looking forward to getting to know both the children and their families over the coming weeks and supporting them as they journey through Y2 and prepare for their move into KS2 next year. This week, we will be helping the children to settle in and familiarise themselves with new Y2 routines as well as the differences which will occur now we are no longer a pod school. Things such as reading books and spellings will all be sent home next week when we have collected in and sorted the reading books which were at home over the summer. On this note, if you have any colour book banded or Read Write Inc phonics books at home, please could these be returned to school ASAP so we can sort them for next week. We would be very grateful for your support in this matter.

Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you-

Water bottles

Children are welcome to bring their own water bottle from home or continue using the one we have in school for them.

PE

Our outdoor PE day is **Tuesday** and our indoor PE day is **Wednesday**. Please can you ensure your child has their PE kit in school for these sessions. They will need trainers and are welcome to wear trousers and jackets for the outdoor session too. If your child has earrings they cannot remove themselves, please can these be taken out on the morning of PE as under the Barnsley policy we are unable to let children take part in PE if they have earrings in. Thank you.

Outdoor learning

At The Ellis we are working hard to develop the outdoor environment and opportunities to learn outside and in Y2 we will be using our outdoor classroom and wider school environment as much as possible. This means that your child will need **appropriate footwear** and **coats** every day. **Indoor pumps** will be needed in school to protect our classrooms from the inevitable mud!

Forest School

This half term Y2 will be taking part in Forest School with Miss Batley which is very exciting. The class will be split into two groups and will alternate weeks so that they go out with her once a fortnight. This will take place initially on a **Monday** (but may change to a different day dependent on Miss Batley’s availability, I will keep you updated on this). Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies in school as it can get muddy if we have had a lot of rain. We are so lucky to be able to offer Forest School sessions to our children and we know how much they get out of them!

Reading Books

Children should aim to read at home at least **3 times per week** and raffle tickets for our weekly and half termly prize draw will be awarded for reading.

We will send home a coloured reading book which they can share with you and your child is welcome to change these books any day of the week when they have completed it. We will also send home a Read Write Inc phonics books which we will change on a **Monday**. This is so that they have the chance to read this books several times in order to build us fluency and develop their sight vocabulary. Please ensure your child has their Read Write Inc book in their book bag every Monday so we can change them. Please record in their reading diary when they have read at home (this could be with a parent, a grandparent, a sibling or a friend). We ask that reading diaries are in your child’s book bag every day. If reading diaries are filled then we will send home a second diary free of charge, however if it is lost then we ask that a new one is bought from the office at the cost of £1.

Spelling books

The children are once again receiving spelling books.  They will have their new spellings stuck in their books on a **Friday,** ready to be tested the following **Friday.**They will bring their book home to practise.  Please support your child in learning their spellings. They can do this using Spelling Shed and by using the look, write, check method in their spelling books. Their Spelling Shed log ins are new and are stuck in their spelling books and their reading diaries.

TT Rock Stars

Now the children are in Y2, we will be sending home a log in to TT Rock Stars which helps them learn their times tables. By the end of Y2, we hope most children will know their 10x, 2x and 5x tables by heart. TT Rock Stars is a good way to practise them. We have set all the children up with their 10x table and as we see that they are answering the questions accurately and at speed, we will add in the 2s and then the 5s. Again these logins are stuck in your child’s reading diary and I will show the children how to use the website over the coming days.

Home Learning

Each half term, children are invited to complete a home learning project linked to our topic.  I have attached a sheet of a few ideas linked to our topic but feel free to create your own ideas! We are always intrigued to see what our superstars have been up to! Once they have completed their project or projects (as some children prefer to do a few shorter projects, whilst others like to complete one long one), please send them into school so we can share their learning with the class. (Photos or PowerPoints can be emailed to Mrs Fiddes and will be passed onto Year 2 staff to share). Please encourage your child to take pride in their home learning and aim for a quality piece that may have taken a few sessions to complete.

Online learning

As a school, we have the learning platform **Seesaw**for any periods when children are unable to learn in school. This may also be used for lessons in school. Children can also use it as a platform for sharing their home learning projects. Please do not use Seesaw as a platform for parent messages and instead phone or email school with any queries.

You can find the Remarkable Rabbits on Twitter @TheEllisY2

We use Twitter to share the learning we are doing at school, celebrate achievements and give information.

Our first topic is **Field to Fork** (including reading traditional and alternative versions of fairy tales) and below is an overview of the learning we will be doing this half term.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Maths** We will be securing and extending our place value knowledge for 2 digit numbers We will then move on to learning about addition and subtraction. We will be developing our mathematical vocabulary and problem solving skills.  | **English** We will be reading *The Jolly Postman* and *Lila and the Secret* Rain in English.  We will be writing letters, postcards, imaginary emails and diary entries all linked to fairy tale character in the Jolly Postman. We will be writing setting and character descriptions when we read *Lila and the Secret Rain* before we create our own retelling of the story. We will read other stories in our VIPERS sessions when we will be developing our comprehension skills through answering questions about the text.   | **Handwriting**  We will be introducing the children to our new handwriting scheme and helping them to learn how to form their letter correctly and where to place them on the lines. Once we are secure with the new sheets, we will begin joining our letters together.   | **PSHE** Our PSHE this term will again be following the Scheme from 1 Decision. During these sessions we will be watching videos and carrying out discussions which require us to think carefully about the choice the person needs to make.  |
| **Music** Our music this half term will be following the Charanga Scheme and our music will be based around a South African song entitled *Hands, Feet, Heart*. We will be performing, apprising and composing linked to this style of music.   | **Geography**In geography we will be learning about the countries, capital cities and seas surrounding the UK. We will then be looking at maps and aerial photos of the local area around school.   | **PE** Y2 will be learning dance on a Wednesday and Fundamental skills on a Tuesday.   |
| **Science** Our science this half term is all about animas including humans and learning about the basic needs of animals for survival, as well as the importance of exercise and nutrition for humans.   | **Enquiry Indoor and Outdoor learning** We love to allow our children to learn through our indoor and outdoor areas. We will access these every week where the children will be able to practise and consolidate taught skills whilst also developing communication, social, problem solving skills and allowing their independent thinking and imagination to develop.  Indoor areas include – writing, construction, maths, creative, investigative and wood bench areas.  Outside areas include – sand, water, creative, big build, construction, small world, woodland exploration, reading, role play, gravel area, mud kitchen, writing, maths and physical sports areas.  | **RE** Our RE this half term we will be focusing on the questions *‘Is it possible to be kind to everyone all the time?’* It is based around Christianity and looks at stories in the bible which are centred around the commandment *Love your neighbour as yourself’.* |
| **Art** We will be exploring the works of Leonardo Da Vinci and Albrecht Durer during our drawing topic, focusing on hatching and cross hatching techniques.   |

Home learning suggestions

Here are some learning activities that you can do with your children at home to support their learning in school.

* Read various fairy tales and retell them using pictures and sentences.

* Write an alternative fairy tale (you could change the characters, setting or plot).
* Create a mask of one of your favourite fairy tale characters.
* Carry out a maths survey amongst your family to find out their favourite fairy tale.
* Bake some goodies you could take to Grannie’s house, linked to Little Red Riding Hood.
* Build a house out of lego for the Three Little Pigs.
* Create your own board game linked to a fairy tale – Hansel and Gretel’s journey through the woods!
* Write a letter to a relative or make a card and post it for the Jolly Postman to transport!
* Design a menu for a day and try to include 5 fruit and vegetable portions!
* Research the bones and organs inside the body and write a fact file about them.
* Practise your hatching and cross hatching techniques and create a pencil sketch.
* Look at Google earth or Google maps and compare the road and satellite maps for a place you visit such as a Grandparent’s house or holiday destination.

You can choose which of these activities you would like to do. You do not need to do all of them! We also know that you and your children have lots of original and creative ideas of your own. We love to see these too!

Please encourage your child to bring their learning into school to share.

If you have any questions, queries or worries then please get in touch via the phone or email. We know that there will be a whole range of feelings about the return to school, from excitement to anxiety but are ready to support all our learners and to enjoy learning together again.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

The Y2 Team.