

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a brilliant start to Y2 our Remarkable Rabbits have made. They are working so hard and I am incredibly proud of the example they are setting to our younger KS1 and EYFS children. I really look forward to spending the rest of the year with them and watching them blossom and grow. Well done to all the children for what they have achieved so far this year and thank you to you, the parents, for the way you have helped the children to settle in and the support you have shown to Mrs Freeman and myself. It is very much appreciated. We have a jammed packed and fun filled half term coming up!

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

### PE

Our PE days are **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. This half term children will be covering gymnastics and invasion skills. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school on those days and earrings are removed. As a reminder, if a child has earrings in which they cannot remove themselves, they will be unable to take part in the PE lesson. Our Tuesday lesson is outdoors so I recommend that they have something like a tracksuit (trousers and jacket) to keep them warm and a pair of trainers. Also a quick reminder that if your child wears tights, please put a pair of socks in their PE bag too. Thank you.

### Curriculum Evening and Harvest Seesaw

If you haven't had chance to check yet, I have put our Harvest song and poem onto Seesaw for you to enjoy as well as a short presentation of life in Y2 and the ways in which you can support your child. These are still available on Seesaw for you to watch.

### Nativity 'It's a Miracle'

Ask any staff member in school and they will tell you that our KS1 nativity is one of the highlights of the year for Mrs Trotter and Mrs Freeman and we are so excited to be able to put one on again this year! All the children have been sent home their parts and lines. Thank you for all the hard work which you and the children have done on learning their lines! Please practise them over the next few weeks so that they know them confidently, then they will enjoy the performance much more themselves. We are working really hard to learn the songs and will start the dances in the next week or two. We have had the privilege of hearing your children sing the 9 songs brilliantly and guarantee it will be another incredible nativity! A reminder of the dates: **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec, 6pm** and **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2pm and 6pm**. We will send out an email regarding tickets nearer the time!

### Outdoor learning

There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing! 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!

### Reading Books

Your child will have two different books to read throughout the week, a Read Write Inc one and a coloured book banded one. We are currently assessing each child to see if they ready to move onto the next coloured book band. This does take a couple of weeks to do, so please be patient whilst we do this, we will get through them as quickly as possible! Please ensure they have their Read Write Inc book in their book bag every Monday as I change them all on this day. They are welcome to change their coloured book banded book whenever they are ready to. Please record in their reading diary when they have read to an adult or maybe an older sibling. 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. Children should aim to read at home at least 3 times per week and raffle tickets will be awarded for reading. Reading is such an important skills which underpins all subjects (lyrics in music, word problems in maths, historical sources etc) and the more children read at home as well as at school, the more this will help in all areas of the curriculum. Thank you for your support with this.

### Spelling books

Please ensure your child has their spelling book in school every **Friday** so that they can stick their new spellings in. Please support your child in learning their spellings. They will be regularly assessed in their spellings on a Friday. The spellings are also on Spelling Shed and the logins for these are in the front of their reading and spelling diary.

### Home Learning

Each half term, children are expected to complete a home learning project linked to our topic. 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 or you are welcome to pop them on seesaw). 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.

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

-  Research about old teddies and how they have changed over the years.
-  Design an outfit for a build-a-bear teddy. What sound would you give it?
-  Research old toys – can you make a time-line.
-  Take your teddy out for a day. Can you show us photos and write about where you went?
-  Find pictures of toys and label the materials they are made from e.g metal, wood, fabric.
-  Write about how toys have changed over the years – think about the changes in materials that are used to make them.
-  Draw a picture and write a description of your favourite toy.
-  Choose a toy and list as many adjectives as you can to describe it.
-  Make a simple toy from the past (pop up toys, wooden peg dolls...)
-  Ask parents/grandparents what their favourite toys were. Can you find a picture of them on the internet?
-  Choose a toy from an online shop. How much is it? What coins/notes would you use to buy it? Use the exact money!
-  Can you invent a toy for the future? Draw a picture or write a description of it.

- 🍯 Make a board game. Does it have a design purpose e.g. to help counting/addition?
- 🍯 Use lego to create a toy shop.

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, creative ideas of your own. We love to see these too! Please encourage your child to bring their learning into school to share.

### Online learning

Children are encouraged to be regularly practising spellings, time tables and areas of the curriculum online. As a school we have subscribed to websites to support the children with their learning. The children all have their individual logins for TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed in their reading diaries. Please support your child with their learning on these platforms. If logins have been misplaced I can issue new ones.

Topmarks maths is also a fantastic website for the children to be practising all areas of the maths curriculum using interactive games.

Our new topic is Toy Story and below is an overview of the learning we will be doing this half term.

**RE**

We will be asking the question "What is the Good News Jesus brings?" We will be looking at peace, forgiveness and researching St George's Crypt project in Leeds which gives support to homeless people.

**PE**

Mrs Trotter will continue teaching outdoor PE – invasion skills and Mrs Freeman will be teaching gymnastics focusing on straight, curved and zig zag pathways.

**HISTORY**

We will be learning about toys from the past. We will look at ones which are different from and similar to today's toys. We will look at the materials used, mechanisms and categorise them in different ways.

**ENGLISH**

In English, we will be reading "The Robot and the Bluebird". We will be asking and answering questions about an illustration, writing thought and speech bubbles, writing a diary entry for the robot, writing persuasive letters and retelling part of the story to create a class book. We will then create our own non fiction toy books, to bring together all our learning from the half term.

As part of our Speaking and Listening area of English we will be practising our Christmas nativity and we will continue with VIPERS in Read Write Inc and guided reading sessions to develop out fluency in reading and comprehension skills.

**TOY STORY**



**PSHCE**

We begin the half term looking at fire safety before moving onto relationships and dealing with worry.

**ICT**

We will be learning how to use the computers in our computer suite (a new skill as we haven't been able to use this room during pod school!) We will learn to log on, type, change the font, colour, size, save work and use 2simple paint to create firework pictures.

**MATHS**

We will begin the half term learning about money. We will practise recognising coins and notes, adding them, paying for items, finding different ways of paying for the same amount, comparing money, finding the difference, giving change and solving word problems. We will then move onto multiplication focusing on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will be developing mental and formal methods for multiplication and division.

Children are encouraged to use TTRockstars to consolidate their learning at home.

**DT**

This half term in DT we are going to be learning how to design, make and evaluate a salad take away box. We begin by comparing 3 existing products and learning how to cut (slice, dice and julienne) and how to peel foods.

**SCIENCE**

We will be learning about materials this half term. We will begin by naming and looking at the properties of different materials. We will then think about their suitability for various objects and carry out lots of investigations to explore which material is best for the job! We will have lots of opportunities to handle materials and to categorise them in different ways.

**MUSIC**

We will be very busy learning our Christmas songs for both our nativity "It's a Miracle" and our whole school Christingle. The songs are very catchy and there is a good chance you will hear them being sung around the house!

If you have any questions, queries or worries then please get in touch via the phone or email. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,  
The Y2 Team  
(Mrs Trotter and Mrs Freeman)