

Dear Y2 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year! All the Y2 staff are excited for the year ahead. We are sure it will be filled with lots of learning, laughter and hope to help the children make lasting memories. Our class name this year is *The Elms* and the staff in Y2 are Miss Bradbury and Mrs Law. Mrs Brinkley will be in class to cover Miss Bradbury's allocated planning afternoon.

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

Book Bags

Please ensure that your child has a book bag that is brought to school every day. It is important that their spelling book, reading diary and reading books are stored safely whilst they are at school. We have allocated book bag box in our classroom where they can be stored and easily accessed when needed.

PE

Our PE days will be **Tuesday and Thursday**. Up until Christmas, both PE lessons will be indoors, after Christmas we will have an indoor and an outdoor PE lesson. The Tuesday PE lesson will be led by Mrs Brinkley and the Thursday PE lesson will be led by Miss Bradbury. Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school on these days; including a plain white top, plain black bottoms and trainers. Children may wear a plain black jumper/hoodie. If your child is wearing earrings we strongly recommend that these are removed before coming school on PE days.

Outdoor learning

At The Ellis we love to learn outside and we are so lucky to have our KS1 area straight outside our classroom (a luxury many other KS1 classes do not have). We will be using this area and other wider school environments 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! Thank you if you have already provided these. The wellies are kept on our Y2 trolley and the pumps will stay in school. Please ensure that wellies have named clearly written inside.

Reading Books

Your child will bring home two reading books and a reading letter explaining the purpose of the different books. 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. We will change Read Write Inc books on a **Tuesday** and the children will have the opportunity to change their '50 Recommended Reads' on a **Friday**. Children should aim to read at home at least 3 times per week and reading raffle tickets will be awarded for reading.

Spelling books

We will be following the Read Write Inc spelling scheme where the children will receive 10 spellings each week that following a spelling pattern, whether that be a sound, prefix or suffix. Every 2/3 weeks your child will receive 10 Y1/2 Common Exception Words which may not always follow a pattern. Your child will be tested on their spellings every **Tuesday**. Your child will bring home a red home spelling book where you will find their new spellings each week and you will see the results of the spellings that have been tested. The children will be taught the spellings in school however, we recommend that they practise them at home too. The children will have access to a Spelling Shed Login where their spellings will set each week as another form of practise. Spellings will not be set over half terms/holidays.

Homework

We will be using an app called Seesaw to set a piece of Maths and SPAG homework every Friday. The homework will be set following what has been taught that week. Homework gives you a great insight into your child's learning and is a great opportunity for you to see what has been taught that week. Homework will be marked by Miss Bradbury and you will be able to see the results. Homework will not be set over half terms/holidays.

Show and Tell

Whilst we love to chat to our children at playtimes and lunchtimes about things they have been doing outside school (places they have visited etc), we do not have a designated 'show and tell' slot in Y2 due to the many subjects we have to fit into our timetable. Please be reassured that we love chatting with our children at social times however! We love to see Show and Tell that is linked to our curriculum and any sports awards/achievements can be shown in our Friday Gold Awards celebrations. Could we please remind parents not to allow their children to bring in any toys or games as we have everything they need in school and children can become very upset if they are lost or get damaged.

Morning Drop Off/ Home time Collection

Thank you for your patience and help at morning drop off and home time. We are sure you can appreciate there are a lot of new adult faces for us to learn so whilst we are a little slower at the moment dismissing the children, we will get faster in the coming weeks. To help support the flow of children in the morning drop off, please ensure that once your child is in the cloakroom/classroom that parents/carers do not stand in the entrance so that children can continue to enter the cloakroom area safely and ensure that have that vital morning greeting with their teacher.

If there is an adult picking up who does not regularly collect your child, please just let the staff know or if there is a last minute change, ring the office. Similarly, if you need to mention something to the staff in the morning, if you have not had chance to do so in the playground, please could you just wait a moment until we have got all the children through the cloakroom door and then the staff can give you their full attention. Safety is of course paramount and during these busy times, staff need to be watching all the children into school safely. Thank you for your help in this matter, it is greatly appreciated.

We will be sharing your child's learning via ClassDojo this year. Please ensure that only parents of the children should be accessing Class Dojo. We are really looking forwards to getting to know both the children and their families over the coming weeks and helping them to take their next step in their learning journey at The Ellis.

Autumn 2 learning overview

English

We will continue to follow the Read Write Inc programme which will teach the mechanics of reading and writing. The children will work in groups for 1 hour every day with their Read Write Inc leader learning their phonic sounds, decoding words, increasing fluency and learning to write simple sentences. As well as this, we will have 15 minutes story time every day led by Miss Bradbury. We will look at a different book weekly and will become immersed in the stories. This half term our books are centred on friendships, family, food and growth.

Maths

We will start by finishing off the topic Addition and Subtraction then we will move onto the next topic which is Shape. We will explore 2D and 3D shapes by using vocabulary such as sides, vertex/vertices, faces and edges.

Science

Our science learning will focus on *Everyday Materials* this half term. We will be learning about grouping materials based on their properties.

Geography

In Geography, our focus question is '*Would you rather live in a hot or cold place?*'

Re

In RE, we will be exploring the question '*What is the 'good news' that Jesus brings?*'

PE

On Tuesdays Mrs Brinkley will be teaching dance and on Thursdays Miss Bradbury will be teaching Yoga.

DT

In DT, we will be looking at Structure. We will be using recycled materials to design, plan and build a model of Baby Bear's Chair.

Computing

In Computing, we will be starting the first part of Programming by using the BEEBOTS.

Music

We will be exploring the topic 'On this Island' and looking at different British Folk Songs and learning them.

PSHE

We will be looking at Keeping and Staying Healthy.