



Blackbrook School

Aspiration Fairness Kindness Responsibility Teamwork

Headteacher: Mr Daniel Seviour BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Friday 13th September 2024

Welcome to Class 2

Dear Parents,

We hope this letter finds you well. Firstly, we want to extend a warm welcome to Class 2 and introduce you to the teachers and staff involved in your child's education this academic year. Mr Sime will be teaching Monday to Tuesday, while Mrs Rowden will be taking over on Wednesdays, and Mr Sime once again on Thursdays and Fridays. Assisting them is our dedicated teaching assistants, Mrs Chmiewliski and Mrs Juhos. Additionally, on some Wednesdays and Fridays, Miss Sillett, our HLTA, will be covering the teachers' PPA time.

It was a pleasure to meet the new class and start getting to know them. We are sure the children are equally thrilled to finally be together as a whole Year 2 class, having been divided into different classes since they began school. The children have been great, and a pleasure to teach. I have been most impressed with them all. I think they will be a super Year 2 class. For many of the class, going from smaller classes to 30 students in a single lesson has been quite an experience. It might mean changing and making new friendship groups, learning new rules and procedures, having a man teacher and having a new classroom to get used to. I am positive they will all adapt quickly as they are already learning the new expectations, brilliantly.

There are a significant number of children that have quite a bit of catching up to do with their reading, writing and counting. As a nation, trust and school the key focus we have is on developing children's **writing**. We shared a story of a child's love for writing to inspire the children but quite a few children responded with groans and a negative reaction to being a writer. I know the children are only at the start of Year 2 and just 6 years old but as they start their third year of school we have to encourage them to realise how important, **and fun**, it is to write correctly and creatively, with the right punctuation and grammar. To support this, we have made all the children a creative writing and story writing book to share at home and school where they can practice writing something regularly once or twice a week so they develop that joy of creating words and sentences to share with others.

Spellings will also be shared weekly to help them learn the sounds and patterns.

In Class 2, the children can come to school wearing their PE kit on designated PE days, instead of changing at school. Please ensure that they wear the correct PE kit, consisting of a red logo t-shirt, black

shorts or tracksuit bottoms, trainers or daps, and their school jumper, hoodie or cardigan for cooler weather. As this half term begins, **PE lessons for Class 2 will be held on Tuesdays.**

Reading is a fundamental aspect of a child's education. While we teach reading and reading comprehension in the classroom, the value of reading at home cannot be overstated. You can greatly contribute to your child's success by listening to them read regularly or discussing their reading, sharing bedtime stories, and fostering a love for reading together. Exposure to various types of reading experiences will help develop their vocabulary, leading to increased confidence when tackling more challenging books. In Class 2, we will begin to encourage children to take more responsibility for changing their reading books. Some children have started to bring home their class reading book that they have been sharing in their phonic sounds lessons. All children will soon also start to have a book from the school's scheme. However, any encouragement to read is encouraged. The expectation is children read most evenings. It may be 5 minutes one day, none the next if your child has a club and an hour the following day. Encouraging regular consistent reading is the key to success and a love of books. We will be checking their reading records on a daily basis so that we can encourage and do the nagging / insisting on regular reading.

Enclosed with this letter is a 'Curriculum Overview' for the upcoming half term. It outlines the various subjects and topics your children will be exploring, giving you a better understanding of what they will be learning in each area.

We encourage **water** bottles as opposed to juice for children to use throughout the day (juice at lunchtime excluded) as the chemicals and additives in the juice can make some pupils extra fidgety. We would like the children to have access to these next to their tables however it has resulted in many children needing the toilet an awful lot during lessons. Children can go freely to the toilet so it can affect their understanding if they are out of the lesson. Presently, we are now storing them at the back of the class and trying to limit the overuse of drinking too much too quick until the children can learn to control the amount of water that they need. It will also limit the few spills we have had especially the juice spills that end up all sticky.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to visit us at the end of the day or leave a message on Class Dojo. For urgent matters during the school day, kindly direct your messages to the school office.

We are genuinely excited about the academic year ahead and all the fabulous learning opportunities and fun that awaits. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education.

Warm regards,

Mr Sime, Mrs Rowden, Mrs Chmiewliski, Mrs Juhos and Miss Sillett

Year 2 Team