



Welcome back to Year 2

Welcome back, we hope you have had a lovely time over Christmas, and managed to get some much needed rest. Here are just a few reminders for the spring term.

Timings of the day

On all days, we will be opening the doors at **8.50** to allow a staggered start time for the whole school. However please be advised that this means our year group start time for lessons is **9.00**. Please try to ensure that your children are in class and ready to start at this time.

Our school day finishes at **3.25pm**.

Class organisation in Year 2

Fruit and milk: Fruit will be provided for the children daily if they wish to have it. This will be given at afternoon play. Milk is also available, please speak to the office if you require more information about this please contact the office for a form. Please remember if you are in receipt of benefits, your child may be entitled to free milk, but you will need to complete the forms so that the milk can be allocated. Please can we remind parents/carers that if the children wish to have a snack at morning playtime, these should be healthy snacks. **Please remember we are a nut free school.** Children are encouraged to have a water bottle in school every day. This should contain **water only** to drink throughout the day and can be refilled at the class sink. If you would like to send squash for a drink at lunch time, then this should be in a separate bottle/carton in their lunchbox/bag to avoid confusion.

School Meals

Children in Year 2 are entitled to a cooked dinner each day. They can choose to have this or to bring their own packed lunch instead. Whilst this is entirely your choice, we thought it was worth reminding you that you don't pay for this cooked dinner until the children move into Year 3. Make sure you take up this offer if you want or need to. The children can choose each morning from the Main dinner option, the vegetarian option or a Jacket potato. (Children may choose any of these options each morning). If you know your child can be choosy about what they eat, having a conversation about the choices before they come to school, can sometimes help them.

Uniform

Please ensure **all** your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their name, to ensure that it is returned to them should it be misplaced. (Please double check PE jackets especially and coats as these are the things that get lots regularly. We would like your child to have a pair of Wellington boots in school at all times for them to wear during OPAL play at lunchtime. Please ensure these are named and in a carrier bag so they can be kept in their lockers.

Topics

Autumn: Castles During this topic the children will learn about the features of a castle, where they are located, why they were built and who lived in them. We also hope to visit a real castle - more details to follow.

Spring term: Great Fire of London In this topic we will be finding out about 'The Great Fire of London', will be stepping back in time to discover how the fire started and why it burnt for 4 long days! Using real evidence from Samuel Pepys himself.

Summer term: Rainforests We will be looking at animals and their rainforest habitats, rainforests around the world, food from other countries and create rainforest art.

Phonics

Some children will continue to take part in daily phonics sessions until they have completed the Little Wandle scheme. If your child did not pass the Year 1 phonic screening test, they will receive booster groups and retake the test later this year. As and when your child completes the Little Wandle scheme, they will move on to our new Spelling scheme. The children will not come home with weekly spellings as this is now done through learning spelling rules and practice in class rather than learning a list. Several of the children are at different stages in the phonics and spelling system and this ensures they have had the gaps filled that they needed and are receiving the teaching that is suitable for their current level.

PE

P.E. for both classes is: **Wednesday = Outdoor**

Thursday = Indoor



We have two PE sessions; an indoor session and an outdoor session. Please send your child to school **DRESSED IN THEIR PE kit** on appropriate days. i.e. white t-shirt, black short, plimsolls/ trainers/jogging bottoms.

Please note that jewellery is **not** permitted in PE lessons for safety reasons. If your child cannot take their earrings out, please make sure they have been removed before school or provide plasters or tape to cover them. Children with long hair should wear their hair up during PE lessons so please ensure they have a bobble.

Reading

For the children to succeed in year 2 they should read at home **every day**. Most of their work in class is based on reading therefore it is vital that children focus on developing these skills to access the curriculum and reach their full potential.



The children are asked to read **at least 4 times per week**. The total reads across the class will be collected on a running total across the year. When we reach 1000 reads, we will be taking the children on an exciting trip to the local library as a reward! We will be rewarding those who read regularly with dojo points!

This year, the children will continue to access decodable books until they have completed the Little Wandle reading scheme. They will bring home either a decodable reading book or their choice of book from the library matched to their reading level once they reach purple bands. The children will also be provided with a "sharing book". The idea behind these books are that you read and share together. They are NOT for the children to read and more for you to read to your child, modelling good reading and to discuss the story together.

Both books will be changed weekly (every Friday). Please continue to document all reads in your child's reading organiser as these will count towards our whole class total. It is crucial that they now begin to focus on their comprehension skills such as retelling the story, expressing their opinion of the book giving reasons, discussing the words the author uses and talking about characters' actions and feelings.

Please make sure that reading books and organisers are available in school every day. Your child will either, take part in 3 small group reads each week and/ or 4 whole class reading sessions depending on their phonic ability. The whole class reads will not be recorded in their reading diaries. However, organisers are also used in other lessons such as ICT so it is important that they are always available.

Reading is great fun and books from home, the library, magazines and comics are all good reading material. The important thing is that our children enjoy reading. When your child has read to you please make a note in their personal organiser.

Reading in a nutshell

- Children will be provided with ONE "sharing book" weekly to be read TO them
- Children can change their "sharing book" every Friday
- Children are expected to be read to a minimum of 4 times a week
- Children are expected to read their own school reading book a minimum of 4 times a week, this can be supplemented with a range of other reading material such as magazines, instructions, comic books or anything else they love to read.
- Children will either take part in small group and/or whole class reads 4 times a week.

Home/ School Communication

The children have a home/school organiser that may be used as a means of communication between home and school, but they are **not checked every day**, so your child will need to show the teacher the organiser if it contains an important message. The quickest and easiest way to contact staff is through our class emails. (detailed below) Emails are checked daily and we will respond as quickly as possible. Also you are more than welcome to pop in and see us at the end of the day.

rbps.class5@rbps.org.uk

rbps.class6@rbps.org.uk

Exciting reminder - Don't forget the Year 2 residential trip Tuesday 16th- Wednesday 17th July
Reminder about payment dates:

Date to be paid by.	Amount
15.12.23	Deposit £20 (Non- refundable)
8.03.24	Instalment 1 - £20
24.04.24	Instalment 2 - £20
24.05.24	Instalment 3 - £27

The third instalment may be reduced in price due to Gulliver's Valley providing us with some family passes. The success of these tickets being raffled off may reduce the price of the third payment. We will send an updated final payment amount closer to the time.

If you have not paid your deposit and are still unsure about your child's attendance on the trip please speak to your class teacher ASAP.

As always, any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the year 2 team.

Kind regards

Year 2 team