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Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to Year 2. We hope you all had a lovely summer. What a strange year we have had so far. This year may be slightly different due to this. Lots of our normal school routines have changed but the children's learning will always be our priority. We will be covering a recovery curriculum throughout this half term to ensure the children have not missed any learning opportunities in the past months. The children are now becoming experts in washing their hands throughout the day. We always wash our hands if we are entering or leaving the classroom. The children have their own labelled equipment in class which they are all learning to look after as we can no longer share these. Usually in this letter, we would outline our topics for the whole term but due to the uncertain nature of the world at the moment, we will only be outlining our topics for this half term. Homework will be slightly different this year but more on that in the homework section.

### English

We will be studying English through texts; our focus texts will be: 'Pattan's Pumpkin' by Chitra Soundar and 'Leaf' by Sandra Dieckmann. These books will allow us to look at and write in many different genres including fiction, non-fiction and focus on the quality of their writing. We will also be recapping some of the grammar rules covered in year 1 such as adding -ing and -ed to words before moving onto year 2 grammar such as adding in and recognising conjunctions in sentences. Phonics will still be covered during year 2 to ensure children are fully equipped with their sounds and they are confident to use them when reading and writing. Currently, the children will be taking the phonics screening they missed in the year 1 during autumn 2. More news to follow on this. Please ensure the children are practicing lots at home.

### Maths

This half term, we will be covering place value. At the start of this topic, we will have recap place value of numbers up to 20 and 50 before moving on further to numbers up to 100. In this topic, children will further their skills on counting in 2's, 5's and 10's and they will be introduced to counting in 3's. We will be beginning our topic of addition and subtraction before the end of this half term. Throughout this topic, we will have lots of opportunities to recap previous learning and introduce new learning and methods such as adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers.

### RE

We have two RE topics for this half term, they are:

Domestic church – family	Beginnings
Baptism/Confirmation – belonging	Signs and Symbols

## Science

Our science topic this half term is called 'Living in Habitats'. During this topic we will be exploring how we know if an object is alive, dead or never been alive, looking at different habitats we have around us and in the world and food chains. The children will have many opportunities to work scientifically and practically to extend their knowledge further.

## History/Geography

We are starting the year with our geography topic called 'Down on the Farm'. During this topic, the children will be exploring the different types of farms there are and their features, designing their own farm and creating a map and how the world around us can affect how a farm works. The children will have the opportunity to explore lots of different resources to aid their learning such as images, videos and maps. Unfortunately, due to the current situation we will not be able to visit a real-life farm which is very disappointing. However, I am sure the children will all remember their trip to Godstone farm from when they were in Red class.

## PE

Our class PE sessions are Wednesday mornings. The children will need to come to school in their P.E. kits. It is advisable during winter for the children wear a navy-blue tracksuit and hoodie. They should also have a plain white t-shirt, white socks and trainers. During the warmer days, navy shorts can be worn. Please ensure all hoodies are labelled as the children may get warm during the session and will take them off.

## Art/DT

This half term, we will be studying art. Our focus is on the artist: Giuseppe Arcimboldo. We will be exploring in the style of Arcimboldo by using a variety of materials such as paint and pencil. We will be creating our own pieces using Arcimboldo as an influence such as self-portraits and his four seasons artwork.

## Book change day:

Our book change day will be on a **Tuesday** and **Friday**. Please ensure you stick to these days as we will be quarantining books for 72 hours and will not be able to change books on other days. Books will remain at home during the time children have them and then brought in on one of the 2 days to change. If your child is on a longer book and needs more time to finish, they may keep their book longer but once finished, they will only be able to bring it in on one of the changeover days. Children should be reading and practicing their phonics at home daily as much as possible.

## Spelling test day:

Spellings will be sent out on a Friday with homework on google classroom and will focus on the phonics sounds that we have been revising during the week. We will be recapping lots of sounds so please do not be alarmed if you see spellings and sounds we have explored before. Learning sounds is all about revisiting and applying. Common exception words will also be included in our weekly spellings. We will start by looking at the year 1 list before moving onto the year 2 list. The common exception word list will be available on our google classroom site. Please ensure the children are regularly practicing these spellings in sentences at home.

**The test will be conducted on the following Friday.**

## Homework:

Homework will be set weekly on a Friday and will be due in on a Wednesday. The homework will consist of a piece of English, a piece of maths and weekly spellings. The homework will be posted on google classroom and will not be printed out. The children will hand their work in online and feedback will be given online too. The children will have their own logins for google classrooms. These will be handed out by me. Please keep them safe.

Mathletics and TTS Rockstars:

Mathletics and TTS Rockstars are a great resource the children can access at home. If they are looking for some maths games and a challenge, these sites are the best to use. Mathletics gives the children great practice in all areas of maths and TTS Rockstars makes learning their timetables fun. The children's logins were handed out just before lockdown. If you need these again, please contact us.

Take care and Keep Safe

Yours Sincerely

Miss F Buchan and Mrs E Stradling.