



## **The Blake CE Primary School**

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Headteacher Tim Edwards-Grundy



*Loving, learning and flourishing in community*

## **Welcome to Year 2: 2023/24**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Year 2 families! We have been so impressed with how your children have settled into Year 2 and are looking forward to a happy and successful year together. We hope this letter will provide lots of important information about Year 2 but please do ask if there are questions left unanswered.

### **The Year 2 Team**

2RC: Mrs Castree (Class teacher), Mrs Steele, Mrs Sollis and Mrs Urquhart (Teaching Partners)

2SP: Mrs Sarah Piper (Class Teacher), Mrs Diliberto, Mrs Gillitt and Mrs Rutherford (Teaching Partners)

Mrs Rowlands teaches 2SP on a Thursday afternoon and 2RC all day on a Friday.

We teach across the year to ensure we can tailor the learning to each child. So, your child may be taught by any members of the Year 2 team at different points in the year, particularly for Phonics.

### **Times of the School Day**

We open our doors at 8:40am and enjoy welcoming your children individually into the classroom. The doors are locked at 8:50am, after which time please make your way to the school office. Break time is from 10.20am - 10.40am, when the children will have a morning snack.

The children go into the hall to eat their lunch at 11:55am, followed by a lunchtime play outside, which finishes at 1:00pm. They then have an afternoon break and snack at 2:45pm and the school day finishes at 3.20pm.

### **Snacks and Water**

The children have two opportunities for a snack in the school day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The majority of children bring in a snack from home for the morning and

then have a fruit snack provided by the government in the afternoon. Please ensure snacks are brought in a named pot or box. Snacks must be healthy and must not contain any nuts. We suggest fresh fruit or vegetables, but your child may also bring in a cereal bar, crackers or cheese if they prefer. No crisps, sweets or chocolate. Children must also bring in a named water bottle (no squash please), which they can access and refill throughout the day.

### **Collective Worship**

During the week we have a time of reflection every day. On a Monday and Friday, Collective Worship takes place in the school hall with the rest of the school. We end each day with a reflection time and the school prayer.

### **Curriculum**

Please find attached an overview of our curriculum for the year.

### **PE**

Our PE slots for the week are Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure PE kits are in school on this day. It is essential that all PE kit items are clearly named! Long hair needs to be tied back for PE and earrings need to be removed. If your child is wearing tights, please ensure they have socks in their PE bag. If there is a medical reason why your child cannot take part in PE one week, please let us know.

We also enjoy 'Wake and Shake' and 'Movement Breaks' throughout the school day, providing regular opportunities for exercise and wherever the weather allows, children will have learning time outside in the Year 2 garden.

### **Reading**

Reading is an essential part of the Year 2 curriculum. While we read throughout the week during Phonics lessons, we aim for a staff member to read with your child individually at least once a fortnight; children may also read with a volunteer reader. All reading will be recorded in their Reading Diaries.

Reading with your child at home is essential for their reading development and confidence. We appreciate your support with this and would encourage you to ask questions and discuss the stories, to help develop your child's comprehension and enhance their enjoyment of their reading. We recommend reading with your child for at least 10 minutes every day; please record this in their Reading Diary.

### **Reading Books**

Each week, your child will come home with two decodable books which your child should be able to read to you using their phonics skills (sounding out unknown words). Your child should

aim to read this book three times before changing it. The first read will be decoding and slower, the second read should be more fluent and by the third read they should be adding expression. When the book has been read three times, they can change their book for a new one. This can either be during their reading time with an adult, or if they need their book changing sooner, please let us know on the door in the morning.

Your child will also come home with a book of their choice from the library. This book is to encourage your child's love of reading and expose them to a range of rich vocabulary. Depending on your child's reading level, you may read this with or to your child and enjoy the story/information together.

## **Spelling**

In Year 2, every Friday, we have Spelling Quiz. This is not something to be frightened of and we endeavour to create a calm and 'no pressure' setting so that the children do not feel anxious! The children need to know their spelling words in order for them to progress in reading and writing. Knowing these spellings will also help with confidence in the classroom and be an overall advantage to their learning journey. Next week we will be splitting into groups for spelling. The children will be placed into a group based on spellings done in class this week. We would really encourage all children to practice at home with grown-ups regularly to ensure they feel confident and happy to take on the quiz. The spelling lists will be stuck inside the children's homework books weekly and they may use their homework books to practice writing their spellings if they choose to. We hope this will help your child to be successful and to provide a challenge!

## **Homework**

Each week your child will come home with a purple homework book in which will be stuck spellings and sometimes some other Maths and English pieces of work. These homework books are a space in which the children can practice their learning at home. They should be brought back into school on a Thursday to ensure they can be marked and returned on a Friday.

## **How you can get involved**

We truly believe a child's education is a partnership between the family and school. If you would like to volunteer at school to read with children or support them in some of their topic work we would love to hear from you. Please don't hesitate to contact the office.

We very much look forward to a happy and learning-filled year with your children. If you have any questions about the curriculum or any other aspect of life in Year 2, please do ask!