



Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely summer break with lots of fun, and are as excited as we are to start a new school year in our lovely new classroom.

In this first term our topic is 'My world. The children will be sharing, learning and writing about things relating to their own local 'world' from themselves, their family, their village and local area. As you will see on the accompanying curriculum map we will be making cross-curricular links for much of the learning although some aspects of subjects such as RE and maths will be taught discretely to ensure coverage.

Routine matters

Mornings – In Skylarks Class we encourage the children to enter the classroom with a little more independence. We ask the children to be responsible for their coat, PE and book bags, lunchbox and water bottle, although please ensure these are named. Please ensure any 'home time' arrangements are written in the morning on the weekly diary sheet outside the classroom.

Lessons begin at 8.45 and it is important that children don't miss out on learning. The school is open at 8.30 and many activities start at this time. We are always happy to speak to parents in the morning, although if there is something which requires a little more time, please arrange an after school meeting with the teacher concerned.

Reading books - The morning is a good time to change children's reading books, which are situated in the corridor, as often these are forgotten about at the end of the day. We have assessed all the children and given them a book band/colour to begin with. Once we are into the 'swing' of school, we will re-assess these in the following weeks to ensure children are on the appropriate band and are enjoying their reading.

Water Bottles - We encourage the children to drink water throughout the day and so their water bottles are kept in the classroom. These can be taken home each day, cleaned and refilled with fresh water. Please make sure your child's water bottle is named. Other drinks such as squash or juice **must** be kept for lunch time and kept in lunch boxes.

PE – The children will be split into 2 groups this term for PE. Half will have PE on a Tuesday with Mr. Colbeck and the other half will be on Thursday. They will then switch after half term. PE kit can be brought to school at the beginning of the week and will be sent home on Fridays. As always, please make sure all clothing and footwear is labelled with your child's name. Children should have plimsolls for indoor PE and a separate pair of trainers for outdoor use.

Homework – It is expected that children in Year 2 will complete a piece of homework each week as this helps to stimulate conversation at home and further their learning. We will send home a list of fun and engaging activities which they will be able to complete in any order. More details to follow shortly.

Reading – The children will read in guided group sessions through the week, with individual reading taking place when appropriate. We have given each child a 'reading diary' where your children's reading sessions will be recorded each time. This book also allows parents to date when they have read with their child and add any comments for the teachers to see. We will also stick any small notes or messages in this book – so please check regularly.

Word lists – The children have already received a spelling book – a new list of words will be sent home every Tuesday. These are to practise at home and will be linked to our phonics learning and reinforced during the week in a variety of ways. It is vital that you and your child take time to learn to read and write the words, so they can become embedded into their phonic and literacy work, as this in turn will support their overall progress.

Invitations – Throughout the year we aim to give context to our activities and make our learning purposeful. We love it when we are able to share what we have learnt and will invite you to join us when these opportunities arise. **If you have an area of expertise that you would like to share with or demonstrate to the class, please let one of the teachers know, as these occasions also help to bring learning to life.**

Information – Please make sure we have your latest emergency contact information including phone numbers, especially if you have moved house or changed jobs etc.

Thank you

Miss Betts and Mrs Eland