



# Year Two Newsletter

## Autumn 1 2024



Hello and welcome to all children and their families to Year 2 and the new school year at Priory Rise! We hope that you had an amazing summer break and are now ready for your Year 2 learning journey to begin!

We have enjoyed such a happy start to the new school year, and we are delighted that everyone is settling into their new classes and the new routines beautifully. You can be so proud of your children. They have returned to school so positively and are an absolute joy to teach!

We all loved our opening theme of 'Into the Jungle' and have written some amazing versions of 'Jungle Jamboree'. Thank you so much for your support parents in helping the children settle so well and for the amazing costumes! What a great start to what will be an amazing and exciting year!

We are looking forward to all learning opportunities that we have ahead of us, getting to know each child inside out and of course working alongside parents and careers too! We are keen to form strong relationships with each child and with parents/carers. We know that if we work in partnership with you that your child will have the happiest of years and will have the best chance to thrive. Happy children learn well!

We are so excited to get to know you all and loved meeting many of you at our Open Evening in July.

### Parent - Teacher Contact

We are available to talk to you quickly at 8.30 am drop off in the morning, and after school once the children have been dismissed safely. Alternatively, you can email us on [Year2@prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:Year2@prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk).

Please make sure that you tell us the name of your child in the email. We will strive to get back to you as soon as possible - this will be after school hours as we do not have email on whilst we teach for safeguarding purposes.

You can also pop a note in the red Home-School link book.

### Marvellous Me

We use this to contact you to celebrate successes for your child and to inform you of their learning. We also use this to send you quick reminders for dress up days etc.

## Year 2 Curriculum learning

'Once upon a time...'

In **Year 2** we link areas of our learning as much as possible to immerse ourselves in our topics and deepen our learning.



**English** work this term with **traditional tales**. We will be retelling well-known traditional tales and will be discovering the ingredients that make this genre so well-loved. We will become authors and create our own original tales. In addition, we will be describing characters and settings developing our grammatical knowledge and will be introduced to a wider range of punctuation. We will be immersing ourselves into 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'Little Red Riding Hood'.

**Reading** will be an integral part of every day. We will listen to **stories, poems and rhymes** daily and will also be reading with groups of children.

**Phonics /Spelling** lessons will form part of learning every day. In Autumn 1, we will continue with our phonics learning and **review the sounds in Phase 5** of our spelling programme designed by Little Wandle. This will link directly to the phonics learning in Reception and Year 1.

**Computing** this half term will be based on familiarising ourselves with the iPads and how to use them effectively. We will learn about **e-safety** and how to keep ourselves safe using the internet using Purple Mash.

**Geography** learning will focus on the **environment around us** this half term and will build upon our knowledge of maps from Year 1. We will further develop our map skills, learning about aerial views and keys. We will look at local maps identifying changes to land use over time and will find out about where we are in the world in relation to other countries using Google Earth. We will find out about journeys and will create our own map of a journey.

In **RE** and this half term we will be learning about **belonging, special places and Christianity**.

In **Maths** we will be beginning our learning journey with **number, counting and the place value of two-digit numbers**. We will compare and order number. Following this, we will move on to addition and subtraction and begin counting in 2's, 5's and 10's in the first instance.

**PSHE** lessons will involve in activities and discussions that create our **class codes of conduct**. We will use our 'Jigsaw' lessons to develop our skills, and we will discuss our values of the month and try to use them in our every-day life. Our first Jigsaw unit is **Being Me**.

**Music** will be taught by Mrs Horwood each week and this half term will involve **rhymes and percussion** skills.

**Science** learning will focus on **plants**. We will be locating and classifying plants around us in our school grounds and will create several investigations that will help us identify the best place and best conditions

for plants to grow well. We are going to be planting and creating our own Year 2 garden with bulbs! If you have any plant cuttings, bulbs or pots that you would be willing to donate we would be very grateful! Our garden will be outside of our back doors and will really enhance our Year 2 environment!

In Art, we will be developing our sketching skills and linking this to our Science topic of plants as well as looking carefully at ourselves to **create portraits in both realistic and abstract forms**.

We are certainly going to be very busy!

## Enrichment

We are delighted that Year 2 will be taking part in the Waddesdon Manor Christmas display. We are going to have an artist visit us on 1<sup>st</sup> October for an art workshop and we can not wait to see what the children create !

## Homework and Home learning

### Reading Homework: How it works in Year 2



We believe that reading opens a world of learning and being able to read well offers wonderful life opportunities. We want our children to love books and to leave Year 2 having read many high-quality texts, having learned many new words and being able to **read like a storyteller** with their level appropriate books.

Reading books and the red book need to be in school every day please.

Your child will bring home a **reading book**, this will be a phonics book that is **carefully and precisely matched** to their phonic knowledge following phonics checks from Year 1 and continuing into Year 2. This book will be decodable, and this is a book **your child can read to you**. Please see more information on our website : <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Your child will also bring home a **sharing book** - this will be a colour coded book for you **read together**. This book will help your child acquire a breadth of language and will introduce many words that may not be decodable using phonics. It will support their reading by exposing them to a wide breadth of text and extend their word knowledge.

In addition, your child will visit the library every week and will be able to bring home a library book to share with you.

# This is the impact of **Reading**

A STUDENT WHO READS

**20 minutes**

EVERY SINGLE DAY...

will be exposed to **1.8 MILLION** words yearly and will score in the **90<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE** on standardized tests.

A STUDENT WHO READS

**5 minutes**

EVERY SINGLE DAY...

will be exposed to **282,000** words yearly and will score in the **50<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE** on standardized tests.

A STUDENT WHO READS

**1 minute**

EVERY SINGLE DAY...

will be exposed to **8,000** words yearly and will score in the **10<sup>th</sup> PERCENTILE** on standardized tests.

## **PRICELESS EFFECT:**

Quality Time & a Forever Love of Reading!

Please read with your child **every day**. It doesn't have to be 20 minutes - try 5 minutes and build to 10 minutes and gradually extend your time. Remember - you can read pages to your child too.

The evidence of the impact daily reading has on the progress in learning is huge!

Please **add your comments in the small red book**. These are so helpful to us, and our partnership will help us make sure that your child makes the best progress possible.

We change our books **once a week** on the designated day for your child. This will be at the front of the red book.

It is ideal that these books are read and discussed several times (especially the phonic book) and that your child has the opportunity to hear you reading some of the book - developing expression and intonation. We want your child to feel a master of the book they are reading and to be able to read with flow is vital to their understanding of a text.

Not sure what questions to ask your child when they read?

Look on our Year 2 teaching and learning page for our VIPER questions. Here we have many questions that will really help your child when you share books.

In addition, a fabulous resource for additional texts to read at home is Oxford Owl. They offer free ebooks: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

## Spelling Homework

We will send home spelling words and activities for the children to practice the spelling rules and spelling words required in Year 2 following our direct teaching. This will **begin week 3**, when the children have settled into Year 2. We will be continuing the Little Wandle phonics program and words will be in line with the sounds we are teaching.

Words to learn will be on **Google Classroom every Friday (from week 3)**

In addition, we will be making sure that we know all of Year 1 common exception words and move on to Year 2 tricky words and will be teaching them in a structured way. We will be detectives, finding out why they are tricky!

We will inform you of the word groups as we teach them so that you can support learning these words at home. The common exception words and Little Wandle spelling words are on our Year 2 learning page as a reference for you.

At all points we will be checking that the children are consistent in their knowledge and application in both reading and writing.

## Maths Homework

Maths homework will be using My Maths, a digital resource on and will be set every Friday. It will link to the learning in class that week and therefore the children will be able to show you their Maths skills. We will send home a reminder of passwords for My Maths.

If you are unable to access this resource, please let a member of our team know and we will support you with this.

## Snacks and Water

Please make sure that your child brings a named **water bottle** to school each morning. They will be able to drink when needed and will take it to PE, playtime and lunchtime. As they are at the early stages of personal organisation - a named bottle is very helpful to staff!

We have **fruit** available for children every day. Some children like to bring in their own named fruit boxes and that is fine. Please remember - the snack should fruit and **no nuts** of any kind are allowed please.



## Birthday Treats

Many children like to bring in treats for their class on their birthday (although there is no pressure to do so). We ask that all treats are **nut free** please as we have children with **extreme allergies**. We will not be able to give out any treats that contain nuts.

If your child has an allergy, we are happy for you to provide us with the treats that you as parent experts are happy for them to have over the year so that they are included safely. We will keep these in a named tub/provided by you in our classroom cupboards so that the right treat goes to the right child.

## PE Lessons

Children wear Priory Rise PE kit on PE days and remain in the kit for the duration of the school day.

In addition, to keep safe, your child cannot wear any jewellery during their PE session. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure they can either remove the earrings themselves, or they do not wear them on PE day. Alternatively, please cover the earlobes/earrings with micropore tape before they come to school.

Children with long hair will also require a hair band to tie it back.

### PE DAYS IN YEAR 2

Rosen	Tuesday (indoors)	Tuesday(outdoors)
Donaldson	Tuesday (outdoor)	Wednesday (indoors)
Bright	Tuesday (indoors)	Wednesday (outdoors)



## Home Time

Thank you for your patience and understanding when we dismiss the children at the end of the day. Our priority is the safety of the children, and we take great care in ensuring that children leave with their designated adult.



We remind children do not leave the class line until we have seen their adult. We dismiss the children one at a time and although this makes the process a little slower at the beginning of the year, it ensures that all children are handed over safely. As we don't know you very well, please wave at us as your child reaches the front of the line.

Please make sure that you **contact the office** or a member of staff at the Year 2 gates if your child is going home with a **new adult/with a friend**.

We **will not let a child go home** with other parents unless you have told us in the morning or have contacted the office during the day.

Please **do not** use the Year 2 email for **urgent messages** we do not access during teaching times (8.30-3.10)

Mrs Truan - Assistant Headteacher/ Year Leader/ Rosen class teacher (Mon, Tues, Wed am)

Miss Scrivener - Rosen class teacher (Wed pm, Thurs, Fri)

Mrs Brazely - Bright class teacher

Miss Bulford - Donaldson class teacher

Miss Ashby - Learning mentor

Mrs Terry - Yr 2 teaching assistant

Miss Stanton - Yr 2 teaching assistant

Mrs Savage - HLTA

We also have a number of SEND TAs that support children throughout the week.

Mrs Horwood - specialist music teacher

Mr Neal /Mr Elkinson - specialists in PE teaching

Miss Ashby - Learning Mentor





### September : Integrity

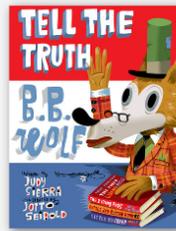
We will be learning about how the value of integrity can be used in all areas of our lives. We learn how we can show this value in our school lives and at home too.

-Everyone makes mistakes, but only a person with integrity owns up to them.

### October : Cooperation

We will be learning about working together to make positive things happen.

### Recommended Books:



#### ***Tell the Truth, B.B. Wolf***

by Judy Sierra, illustrated by J. Otto Seibold

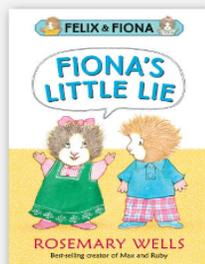
Fairy tale fans will delight in seeing their favorite characters pursue the truth when the Big Bad Wolf attempts to share an alternate account of *The Three Little Pigs*. When his lies get challenged, the wolf admits his wrongdoing, seeks forgiveness, and vows to be a better friend.



#### ***Betty Bunny Didn't Do It***

by Michael Kaplan, illustrated by Stephane Jorisch

The exuberant Betty Bunny learns an essential lesson in this amusing story. After accidentally breaking a lamp and vase, Betty blames the destruction on the tooth fairy. This comical book is full of humorous family dynamics and provides a lighthearted but impactful approach to honesty.



#### ***Fiona's Little Lie***

by Rosemary Wells

When Fiona realizes she forgot to bring her friend Felix any birthday treats, she tells an outlandish lie instead of owning up to her mistake. With just the right amount of silliness, this charming friendship tale teaches children the value of taking responsibility and telling the truth.

25<sup>th</sup> September -Phonics Information evening -  
Open for anyone new to school or who missed the Phonics evening last  
year or if you would like a re-fresh!

26<sup>th</sup> September - SEND information evening

1<sup>st</sup> October - Artist visit to Year 2

4<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest Assembly for children

25<sup>th</sup> October - Diwali celebrations

Parent evenings-

25<sup>th</sup> October - End of Half Term 1

Please see the full calendar on the school website

<https://www.prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=28&viewid=1>

DATES FOR YOUR

DIARY

