



Dear Children, Parents and Families,

Welcome to Year 2!

I hope you and your families are well and you were able to relax and enjoy time together during the summer holiday break.

Due to the lockdown measures in place last term, we all had a very different and challenging end to the school year in July. The end to your time in Year One was unlike any other year and I understand many of you may be finding it strange that you are now starting Year 2.

Some of you will have attended school from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June (albeit to a very different school experience with social distancing measures in place) and some of you may have not been in school since March. All of you have experienced a prolonged period away from school doing distance learning.

Normally we would have had some transition time in school to get to know each other and you would have come to visit me in the Year 2 classroom. Unfortunately, this was not able to take place in school last term so I understand that you some of you might be feeling anxious or concerned about coming back to school.

I would like to reassure you that at school will be doing everything we can to support you through this 'coming back to school' period. We aim to work together so that we can help children settle back in to school, 'catch up' and have an exciting and productive year.

To go with this new start, we have a new class name - We are now called St Lorenzo's class. I am really looking forward to getting to know you all and am sure we will have lots of fun learning together.

### **Year Two Routine**

Year 2 children can access school through the Hastings Street playground entrance.

Timings are as follows:

Start of the school day: Gate open at 8:40am – 8:50am

End of the school day: Gate opened at 3:15pm

- The gate will be opened by either myself or Mrs Adamek.
- Children should be dropped off and picked up by one adult.
- Adults will not be allowed onto the playground for safety reasons.
- Please try not to arrive early as School start and end times are staggered and these are the times allocated for Year 2 children.
- Parents should line up with their child outside the gate, whilst keeping distant from other families.
- At the start of the day please try to arrive in this 10-minute window as after the gate will be used by another class and you will not be able to gain access via this entrance.

Children will enter and leave school through the Year 2 class door. This procedure is to keep the children in their own class bubble. Please be patient as I learn which parents belong to which children over the next few weeks 😊

### **Curriculum**

We will be aiming to provide a balanced curriculum. Our first topic is called 'The Place Where I Live'. This topic is about our local area. The Foundation subjects in this focus are History, Geography, Art and Music. In Maths we will be starting a unit on Place Value and our first Religious Education theme is 'Beginnings'.

Due to the interruptions to children's schooling during the last academic year a primary focus will be on English, Maths and RE initially. This is an effort to help children 'catch up'.

### **Changes:**

Now that class sizes have increased the whole class will be together in the Year 2 classroom. As a result, the focus will be on maintaining our class bubble rather than keeping children socially distant (although we will try to maintain distance where possible).

- Children will be staying in their own class bubbles. This will involve children only mixing with those in their year group.
- Children will undertake frequent washing of their hands throughout the school day.
- Children should bring limited items into school (water bottle, bookbag, coat, hats etc).
- Frequently used equipment (pencils, rulers etc) will be given to children for their individual use in class.
- Our playtimes and lunchtimes will be at a different time and separate to other year groups.
- Children will be sitting side-by-side and facing forwards in class.
- There will be frequent cleaning of commonly-used and shared areas.

If you have any concerns or for more information about procedures in place this term please contact the school office and speak to Miss Jordan.

### **Praise and Rewards**

A happy classroom is a successful classroom.

Children are awarded 'dojo' points in class for good behaviour, working hard, being a good friend and excellent effort. Each time they earn a point their name will move across our star chart. Every time they achieve ten points they will receive a certificate in our Praise Assemblies on a Friday morning. These are taking place virtually.

Additionally, each Friday I award one child as Star of the Week. This is recognition of someone in the class who has tried their best and worked well during the week. They also receive a special certificate!



## Homework

We are now able to send reading books home and so we will be providing your child with a reading pack next week. Your child will be able to take a book home on Mondays and must return it on Fridays.

It is still important that your child practises their words and sounds and reads regularly at home. We will check their reading records each week.

From next week there will also be some homework for children to complete. This will be posted onto the Year 2 Class page on the School Website.

In Year 2 an English and a Maths task will be set each week. These tasks are taken from the Year 2 curriculum. Children will also have spellings to learn each week. We will test the children on their spellings in school after they have had a week to learn them.

Homework will be posted each Friday. I will post the first homework tasks on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any questions about homework please ask us.



## General Reminders

- Please make sure all items of uniform are labelled.
- Children need to bring in their own **water** bottle to keep in class. Please make sure your child's name is on their water bottle.
- Children will need to bring in their **own fruit** for a snack at playtimes.
- Year Two will have PE on a Thursday. This half term children can ***come into school in their PE kit*** on this day. Please ensure your child has their ***correct PE kit*** (see school uniform policy). They should also come to school in their ***school jumper*** as normal. We are trying to have our PE lessons outside as much as possible (weather permitting) so they can wear navy/black jogging bottoms or leggings if the weather is colder.
- If your child is ill please inform the school office each morning.
- Please let the school office know if your contact details have changed. The school office will need correct details for an emergency contact number and to inform parents of what is happening in school.
- We are currently updating our website page. You can find us under the Year 2 tab! In a few weeks I

*If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.*

*I hope you are looking forward to the new opportunities that Year 2 has to offer!*

Many Thanks,

Miss Hargrove