



I am so excited to be preparing this Back to School Newsletter ~ having already spent some great time with the class, I'm excited to finally share plans for our daily routines and topics.



This year is an exciting one in many ways. I have enjoyed preparing the Coral Class for Year 2, a classroom that has been the school's music room for the past 3 years. I have also been excited by the various topics and trips that will, I hope, motivate and inspire the class in their learning. I hope the following information is useful to you:

General reminders:

WATER: Please ensure your child has plenty of water, especially on days when we have PE. Refills are available courtesy of the PTA coolers.



UNIFORM: Children must wear appropriate school uniform. Children can come to school on Monday and Wednesday in their PE uniforms but they should remember a change of uniform for afterwards.



HATS: Hats must be worn for all outside play and PE sessions.



SNACKS AND LUNCHES: Your child should bring a healthy snack to school every day. School lunches are available and should be ordered in advance.



PUNCTUALITY: Children should be in school by 8:15am and picked up at 3:00pm.

Happy Birthday to all the children who have a birthday this 1st term.

Happy Birthday!



Reading in Coral Class:

Developing reading for all purposes is a key objective in Year 2. We hope to support and inspire your child to become an engaged, independent reader in a number of ways.

Home/School Reading: Children will select a colour-levelled book from the library to read at home and school. This should be changed regularly – books will be swapped on **Mon, Weds & Fri**.

Children should be listened to when reading as often as possible. We will establish this routine in class.

Reading records: are a great way of communicating with me about reading, as you have in K and Year 1. Please make comments about how your child enjoyed/succeeded/struggled with their book, so that reading material can be as relevant as possible. If your child enjoyed a particular style/series/subject of books, please request more!

Non-fiction: children are encouraged to read non fiction books too. These may be borrowed for longer and may be too difficult for your child to read by themselves. However, sharing these and reading to your child on a topic they have self selected is so valuable. We hope they discover all sorts of interests!

Returning books: Our library is a valuable resource which helps hundreds of children to read! Please take care with books so that they can continue to help children in the future. Your child has a cloth book bag with a plastic bag inside. We hope this ensures that books remain in good condition and don't get lost.

Important Contact details:



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Curriculum and Topic information:

HOMEWORK: Homework in Coral Class comprises *spellings, numeracy* and *literacy/topic* activities – all of which will reinforce classroom teaching. Spellings will begin when all children have been assessed, allowing appropriate homework to be planned and prepared. All other homework will be set on a Thursday and should be returned on Monday, after the weekend. This should allow your child the opportunity to plan when it is completed around out of school activities.

If games are sent home, please keep the game and play for as long as sanity allows!

TOPIC WORK: In Coral Class, we will be approaching our topics through a 'creative curriculum'. By centring learning around one topic area, children are able to apply their skills in a meaningful and purposeful way across the entire curriculum in a variety of ways. Children will learn to adopt a multi-disciplined approach to their work in order to research, investigate, reason and inquire.

Our first topic this year is *Life in the Undergrowth*. A curriculum map will be shared soon to give you a sense of how the topic will be taught. You may find it useful to help support your child at home with reading material, movies and visits of interest!

There is a wonderful David Attenborough BBC series with the same name that looks at the life of insects. It is incredible. We will watch some of this in class, but they would make fun viewing at home in short bursts. Although very grown up, I have found that children of all ages enjoy these series for their stunning visual content.

PE: This half term, we will be focussing on Gymnastics. Children should come dressed for PE on **Monday** and **Wednesday** mornings.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS: I greatly appreciate any support that parents are able to offer the class throughout the year. Whether helping with specific events and educational visits, or on a regular basis in class, your input is of huge benefit to the children. If you are able to offer your time in any way, please come to see me in class. I'll be delighted to make the most of your support!

I hope you find this information useful! If you have any questions, ideas or concerns please feel free to speak to me. I am always available to speak with parents after school or at other times, by appointment.

~ Mr Toby.