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Headteacher – Miss Nicola Waites

5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 2

Welcome to the start of the new school year. I hope you had a lovely summer break and your child was looking forward to returning to school and re-establishing their friendships and daily school routines. It has been wonderful to see how settled and happy the children have been during their first week in Year 2. We would like to say thank you very much for all of the photographs, postcards, leaflets and scrapbooks. They have really helped the children to talk about the types of places they visited during the holidays and have supported their learning this week.

Meet the Team
I would like to introduce you to our Year 2 team. This year our teaching staff will be Miss Leetham (class 8), Miss Curry (class 10) and myself, Mrs Cowan (class 9 teacher and Year 2 Leader). We are fortunate to have very hardworking teaching assistants to support us and the children: Mrs Cantrell, Miss Clayton, Mrs Costen, Mrs Rowney and Mrs Shaw.

Mrs Kirby will be covering teachers' planning and preparation time each week, so you will sometimes see her greeting or releasing classes. Mrs Cantrell and Mrs Costen are also our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) specialists and will support children who need extra nurturing.

The School Day
In a morning, we will open the Year 2 doors at 8.45 am and they will close at 8.55 am. If your child arrives after this time they will need to enter school through the school office. Children will enjoy a morning playtime of 20 minutes and a 1 hour and 15 minutes lunch break. The lunch break is slightly different this year as the children have a playtime first, then return inside for lunch and then continue their playtime. With this in mind, please encourage your child to eat the healthy snacks offered at playtime or to bring their own healthy and nut-free snack to school. The school day ends at 3.30pm and children will be released to you from the Year 2 doors. Please make sure that you inform your child's teacher of any changes to your usual collection arrangements and make sure your collection consents on Arbor are up-to-date in order to avoid any delays.

Phonics, home reading and library books
We will continue to follow the Read Write Inc programme for phonics and reading. Lessons will re-commence on Monday 8th September; therefore, your child will bring home their first reading books next week. Please make sure that all reading books and yellow reading record books are returned on the date shown in your child's reading record. On Fridays, some children will bring home words to practise reading and/or spellings to practise for the following week.

Your child will also be given the opportunity to bring home a book from their class library to share with you or to read independently. These books can be returned to class when finished and swapped for a new one on any day.

PE
PE days will be as follows from Monday 8th September:

Class 8 – Mondays Class 9 – Tuesdays Class 10 - Tuesdays

Please could all children come to school on these days ready for PE and they will stay in their PE kit all day. Our PE lessons will be indoors this term so children will need to wear shorts and a t-shirt. They may wear a sweatshirt and jogging bottoms over the top if they wish. Please remember that for safety reasons hair should always be tied back where possible. Earrings should be removed or taped.

I would also like to remind you that only small stud style earrings should be worn in school, no hoops please.

Assemblies, Friends Friday and Show and Tell
Each week all of the Year 2 children will come together for a special assembly to celebrate children who have been having a birthday and to present awards such as NUMBOTS certificates. They will also enjoy other class assemblies and a special whole school celebration assembly. We also have a session which we call 'Friends Friday', when on a Friday afternoon the children are able to choose to play with their friends across the year group either in the classroom or in our outside area. This is very popular and is a well-deserved reward each week for working hard and keeping our school's 'Golden Rules'.

We would like to celebrate children's achievements outside of school with 'show and tell' each week. It would be helpful if 'show and tell' items are brought to school on Mondays. Children will only be given the opportunity to 'show and tell' special achievements, certificates or topic related work from home. Please do not let your child bring in anything else as it will not be shared with the class.

Tapestry
In Year 2 the children will record more work in books, but please still look out for occasional class/year group updates and celebrations through Tapestry. We would appreciate it if you 'like' anything that you read.

Our Curriculum
We will soon be starting an exciting topic about buildings and structures, linked to the story *Iggy Peck Architect* and we would really like to inspire the children with a visit from a real-life architect. Therefore, if you are able to help, or know someone who might, please speak to me or leave details with the school office.

Behaviour and School Rules
We expect children to show respect to others and to follow Our Golden Rules:

- We are gentle
- We are kind and helpful
- We listen
- We are honest
- We work hard
- We look after property

Children will be regularly reminded of the Golden Rules and they will help to create a set of class rules. The 'sunshine' charts will continue to be used in Year 2. Children will start each day on the 'sunshine' and will stay on it if they keep the Golden Rules. 'Wow moments' will be rewarded with rainbow stickers. The 'grey cloud' and 'black cloud' will be used for children who do not follow the rules.

Homework and help at home
This year please support your child at home by:

- listening to them read their home reading books and commenting in their reading record
- helping them to practise reading any sounds or words that they bring home
- helping them to practise any spellings that they bring home
- encouraging them to practise maths skills by playing NUMBOTS regularly
- looking out for special homework activities and encouraging your child to complete them.

We are sure that your child will have a happy and successful time in Year 2. We look forward to meeting with you at Parents' Evenings later this term, but in the meantime if you have any queries please contact the office to arrange a convenient time to speak to myself or your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a successful year.

Mrs H Cowan (Year 2 Leader)