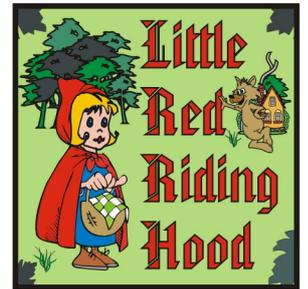


Year 2 Newsletter September 2013

Welcome to the new school year and to your new classes. We hope you have had a wonderful holiday. We enjoyed meeting your children in new classes week and are confident that we are starting this year knowing them a little. We are all looking forward to the coming term.

Hopefully most of you have met the Year 2 team already, but just to make it clear, Miss Roderick will be the teacher in 2R and in 2CP Mrs Chapman will teach Mondays to Thursdays and Mrs Pestridge will teach on Fridays. Our teaching team is supported by our excellent Teaching Assistants: Sally Young, Alison Long, Jo Chown and Sophie Ray. We all work very closely together to ensure continuity and good communication, and the teachers regularly have planning time together. Our planning afternoon is Tuesday when the children will be taught by Mrs Long who is a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and our PPA teacher, Mrs Hale. On Thursday afternoons Miss Roderick will be out of class as part of her Newly Qualified teacher induction. On this afternoon Mrs Long will teach the children in 2R.

Our themes for this term are 'Magic me, Magic friends, Magic learners' and 'What happened to the Big Bad Wolf?' Our work for the first three weeks of term will encourage the children to value what is special about each of them, consider how to be a good friend and set a positive classroom ethos for the best learning possible over the rest of the year. We will be covering a lot of our art work for the term in these first three weeks. This will focus on investigating colour. The remainder of the term we will be working towards our Christmas production of Little Red Riding Hood. As last year, since all of the Foundation Stage children now start school in September, Foundation will present a yearly Nativity and Years 1 and 2 will work towards a separate production. This allows for more children to be actively involved in the performances and by making the production the outcome for the second half of term, it can be an opportunity to showcase the children's learning. As in Year 1, the children will continue to learn in a cross-curricular way. For example, for our Design and Technology work we will be making puppets - some of which will be used in the Christmas performance. This theme will have a very strong focus on literacy and storytelling. Science learning will give the children opportunities to investigate light and dark.



We will continue to follow the National Curriculum for literacy and numeracy, but literacy will be more fully embedded in all theme work which we are referring to as 'Learning Time'. In addition, we will be having regular phonics, grammar, handwriting and guided reading lessons. Numeracy skills will continue to be taught as a separate subject, with opportunities to use and apply skills in realistic contexts. The children will also be given opportunities to become more independent learners by accessing our more creative, child initiated activities such as role play, writing and modelling.

As part of our aim to help the children become independent in their learning this year, we are providing each child with an Alphington Primary School pencil case in which to keep the equipment they need. These pencil cases will be kept in the children's trays when not being used and must remain in school rather than being taken home. We have really limited storage space available in the children's trays at school so please do not allow them to bring in pencil cases or other stationery from home. Could we also remind you that, again due to limited space, your child only needs to bring in a book bag, clear plastic named drinks bottle, PE kit and lunch box (if they are having a packed lunch). We do not have room for children to hang rucksacks on their pegs. However, if there is a specific reason why your child needs to bring in a rucksack on a given day (e.g. an overnight stay or a club) please let us know and we can store it in the classroom.

The focus for our Home Learning this term is spellings (from a list of high frequency words which will be sent home to you, indicating which words your child needs to learn.) We will be asking children to put each spelling into the context of a sentence as this helps them to understand the word as well as spell it correctly. This will take a week or two to set up as we assess the children, but when it is up and running, do let us know if you have any queries.

Many of you take good advantage of using the Library from 8:30 in the morning, and we appreciate the support you give your child in choosing appropriate reading material for their Home Learning. Children really benefit from reading at home, and we urge you to do this as much as you possibly can, ideally daily but at least four times a week. We will give you a Reading Record to record the title of the book, pages read and any other comments about your child's reading. Our library day is Wednesday where the children spend time in the library with Mrs Horrill and change their book, although of course you are welcome to do this before and after school. The library is open at 8.30am Monday-Friday and until 4pm on Monday and Friday.



Our PE days are Tuesdays. Please make sure that PE bags are kept in school with plimsolls, shorts and a top (all named please!) Swimming will start again the week commencing 9th September. Both classes are swimming on Wednesday mornings. Please ensure that if your child has longer than shoulder length hair, they bring a swimming hat. Boys should wear trunks for swimming, not long shorts. Girls should wear one-piece swimsuits. Any child who has pierced ears should either have their earrings taped over with waterproof plasters or not wear their earrings to school on swimming days. This is to protect all of the children from the possibility of injury in the event of an earring coming out in the pool. As always, we will be reliant on parental help, so please let us know if you can help. 2R are swimming first thing and 2CV after break.

Please make sure that all clothing is named, otherwise it is tricky for us to help locate your child's belongings when they go missing! Hair any longer than shoulder length has to be tied up and only one pair of stud earrings is allowed. We cannot take earrings out for PE. If your child has pierced ears please either teach them to take them out themselves, or send in some surgical tape which we will happily help them to cover their earrings with.

Please come into the classroom if you need to change reading material, write who will be collecting your child at the end of the day (if it is not you), or speak briefly to the class teacher. There will always be a morning activity to support your child with if you choose.

In Year 2, we feel it is important to develop your child's independence and growing responsibility for themselves in the morning. We ask that you encourage, and expect, your child to;

- ✓ put their packed lunch on the shelf provided in the cloakroom,
- ✓ bring their water bottle and book bag into the classroom
- ✓ put water bottles in one of the 2 labelled boxes
- ✓ put book bags in their own tray
- ✓ put school dinner tickets in the small labelled box
- ✓ engage in the morning activity, set up by the class teacher
(this is often written on the large class whiteboard)

Over the course of the year, we will encourage children to come into the classroom independently if they can in order to prepare them for Key Stage 2. When you feel your child is able to do this on their own, do encourage them. However, we would like to emphasise that parents are always welcome to come in - especially if you have any time to offer to help in class - we always value your support! Likewise if you have any queries, or if there is a problem then please do let us know straight away so that we can resolve it as quickly as possible. We are all committed to giving the children the best year possible and therefore will strive to ensure both the children and you as parents feel happy with all that happens. Letting us know as soon as there is an issue is usually the best way for us to ensure that little things don't turn into big problems! We are sure that we will have a fantastic time with the children and look forward to seeing them progress through this next stage in their learning journey at Alphington.

With best wishes,

Mrs Chapman, Mrs Pestrige, Miss Roderick, Alison Long, Sally Young, Jo Chown and Sophie Ray.