

## **Welcome to year 2**

The children in year 2 are aged between 6 and 7 years old. They follow the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum, a copy of which is available in each classroom. The curriculum builds upon the children's learning and experiences in year 1 and reception. Year 2 is split into four classes; Owls, Robins, Swifts and Magpies. The school day begins at 8:50 where grown-ups are welcome to stay until 9:00 for Community Time, where they can explore learning with their children and settle them in for the day.

### **Transition**

Children will have opportunities to meet their new Year 2 teachers before they begin in Year 2 in September. These short sessions will give children and teachers time to get to know each other and begin to experience life in Year 2. All children will also receive a letter from the class teaching team telling them about the class and the adults they will work with.

Early on in the first half term of Year 2 each class will run a welcome event for parents. During these meetings parents will have a chance to hear about the year group ethos, as well as teaching and learning in year 2, and will find out more about day to day life in the classroom.

The Year 2 team work closely with teachers from year 1 to talk about individual children, discuss samples of children's work and begin to build a story of the children's learning and experience so far in school. All year 1 reports and formal assessments will be discussed and handed over to Year 2 teachers.

The transition into their final year at Recreation Road can be both an exciting and daunting one for children. There will be a 2 week transition period where the focus is on establishing the class culture and understanding the classroom routines. This will begin from the first day of the new term in September.

At the end of year 2 the children will join one of the local junior or primary schools. We work closely with these schools to provide opportunities to meet the teachers, current students and experience time in their new school settings.

### **Routines**

From 8:50 to 9:00 each classroom is open to you and your child. During this time your children will be guided towards specific activities. This is a good opportunity to talk informally with teachers and other adults and for the children to settle in to the day. This is also a good opportunity to share the children's work, look at displays and help your children select books to read at home.

Each day starts with registration and a discussion about the visual timetable to find out what is happening during the day. Following this each class will begin their learning.

During the day the children will have a 15 minute morning break. These take place in two groups across years 1 and 2, beginning at either at 10:15 or 10:30. The children all have a lunch break together from 12:15 to 13:30. Each class will have a Midday Supervisory Assistant (MSA) who will support the children during lunch break. Year 2 children will be eating towards the end of the lunch break in the school hall or the quiet lunch room in owls class.

Children will attend regular morning assemblies during the year, run by members of the teaching and leadership team. There will also be opportunities for children to run their own assemblies. In year 2 all children are also part of the Year 2 choir who rehearse each week and perform in the school and wider community.

All Year 2 children will have an opportunity to swim during the year. This will be organised at the beginning of the year and the children will have a weekly swimming slot.

If your child has an ongoing medical condition or requires short term medical care (such as medicines or inhalers) please speak to the class teacher as we will need to complete a medical care form.

At the end of the day teachers will send children to their grown-ups from the classroom door. If there are any changes in regular collection routines we ask you to write these in the classroom going home book.

## **Learning**

The teaching and learning at Recreation Road is outlined in detail in the Recreation Road Curriculum and the Year 2 Ethos. Both of which are available in all classrooms. The national curriculum is split into the following subject areas; Personal, Social and Health Education, English, Maths, Art and Design, Music, History, Geography, Design and Technology, PE, Computing, Science and Religious Education. During year 2 these are taught both separately as discrete subject areas and together during whole class projects or enquiries.

At Recreation Road we believe that quality learning happens for all of us when:

1. We demonstrate appropriate attitudes and learning skills.
2. It's driven by curiosity and a pressing need to know.
3. Unnecessary limits aren't placed upon it, by us or others. There is no ceiling placed on the learning.
4. We feel a sense of ownership, and know that we can influence the 'direction of travel'.
5. We immerse deeply in something over time.
6. We see a clear purpose to it, and know there will be a realistic audience for any outcomes.
7. We appreciate and acknowledge a variety of viewpoints and perspectives.
8. We connect to our own, and each other's thoughts and feelings.
9. We have a chance to share and develop our passions and preferred learning styles.
10. We see the big picture, and how all of the bits of our learning connect with it.
11. We know how to respond positively to both successes and failures.

During Year 2 the children's learning continues to be built around the schools learner values. These are discussed and reflected on daily and form an important part of our assessment of children's learning. Each classroom will have a display showing all of the learner values and class newsletters will mention the learner values that have been discussed in class that week.

Children will read daily in school and are encouraged to select books that support their current skill set and interest them. We believe that children should be encouraged to develop a love of reading

through exposure to high quality books. Children will be taught strategies for selecting appropriate books for their reading level rather than read a specific book colour.

As in EYFS and Year 1, enquiry is at the heart of learning in year 2. During the year this will be developed to include sustained Mantle of the Expert frames where the children will be working collaboratively through drama as a team of experts. Children will also experience regular philosophy sessions in class using the principles of Philosophy for Children (P4C)

Opportunities to write will be created across all subject areas. All children will have a draft writing book. These are used as working books that will include corrections and edits made by both children and teachers; they are not for best presentation or final copies of work. The children will also have best presentation books which will keep a record of 'best' writing each half term. Alongside purposeful writing and skills based writing sessions children will also have regular word work session where they look at phonics, spelling and grammar.

Play continues to form an important part of children's learning in year 2. Children will have opportunities to learn through play during both structured learning and their own project time. Own projects time is an opportunity for children to pursue their own interests, such as drawing, playing games, construction or role play.

### **Learning opportunities beyond the classroom**

In year 2 children go on a school trip during the summer term and will have opportunities to take part in a variety of sporting taster sessions. Children in year 2 will also be offered the chance to become a gold level community leader. This is designed to promote good citizenship within our school and community. During the year children are encouraged to develop their responsibility for their own and others learning and will be offered the chance to become digital leaders and reading champions.

Children are also offered chances to work in different spaces around the school including the forest, butterfly garden, school field and library.

### **Parent partnerships**

We encourage parents and carers to be actively involved in their child's school life. We email regular newsletters to let you know what is happening in class, give you ideas on how to support your child's learning at home and let you know of any upcoming events. We also run class workshops to help grown-ups understand what learning looks like in Year 2. Each half term we have a show and share event, grown-ups are invited into the classroom to look at the children's learning and share a comment about their child's learning.

Each classroom has a parent's notice board. These contain up to date policies and information for parents as well as notices about events and activities in class.

Once a week parents will be invited into the classroom for a family games session. This is a chance to chat informally with other parents, teachers and children and enjoy a few games!

We always welcome parent helpers in class. Please speak to your child's teacher to arrange this. Please note all parent helpers need an up to date DSB (formally CRB) to work in school.

You will be offered two separate parents' meetings in the autumn and spring term, the first of these will be centred on your child's transition into year 2. At the end of the summer term all parents will receive an end of year report.

**Assessment:**

At the heart of our approach to assessment in year 2 is the ongoing learning conversations had one to one, in small groups and as a whole class. Children will also be involved in assessing their own and others work and will regularly reflect on the learner values displayed in their work. Children in year 2 will work in mixed ability groups across all areas of the curriculum.

Children in year 2 are encouraged to reflect on their own learning and will use the challenge continuum to select a level of challenge in their work that they feel suits them. For example children may have a choice of 4 increasingly challenging maths problems, children will be able to select the problem that best fits their current level of understanding and allows them to work at a good level of challenge. Teachers and other adults in the classroom will initially support children in making good choices when selecting a suitable level of challenge.

Those children who did not reach the threshold mark in the year 1 phonics screening will take a new version of the test in the summer term during year 2. Where appropriate these children will be given extra support to develop their confidence and fluency in using phonics.

During the year there will be a number of assessment weeks where the focus will be on assessing the children's knowledge, understanding and skills in reading, writing, maths and speaking and listening. The final assessment week in the summer term will include the year 2 SATS. These are statutory assessments in writing, reading and maths that all children in year 2 will take. They form part of the overall picture of assessment and will influence the children's final national curriculum levels.

**National Curriculum levels:**

The national curriculum at key stage 1 includes 3 levels. These are used to measure your child's academic progress in science, maths, reading, writing and speaking and listening. The levels start at Level 1, and progress to level 3. By the end of year 2 it is expected that most children will attain a level 2. These national curriculum levels are each split into 3 sub levels, a, b and c. Those working at a level 2c are just starting to work at level 2. Those working at a 2b are working securely at a level 2. Those working at a 2a have reached the top of the level and are working towards a level 3.

Those children working below national curriculum levels are assessed using P-Scales, a series of levels leading up to level 1.