



Archbishop Runcie Church of England (VA) First School

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Headteacher: Mrs KE Massey

Welcome to Year 2 Newsletter!

5th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an amazing summer. I am feeling refreshed and excited to meet you all properly as your child's class teacher.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Welcome Meeting last term to meet me and hear about expectations for the year. Please find attached a copy of the PowerPoint that was shared.

Staffing

This year, Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Palmer and Mrs Conner will also be working in our class throughout the week, alongside myself. I am joining ARFS this year and I am very excited to build strong, positive relationships with parents/carers and children.

Mrs Armstrong is our KS2 Medicines Lead and First Aider. If your child requires medicine during school, please contact her via angela.armstrong@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk. You will need to meet with her before school begins to ensure medication forms are completed.

Changes from Year 1

Now that your child is in Year 2, you will notice that there will be a bigger focus on times tables. This is to ensure that your child progresses successfully into KS2. Children will already be familiar with the 2, 5 & 10 times tables so we will consolidate this learning and introduce the 3 times table.

Drop off and collection

Children can be dropped off between 8.35am & 9.45am. The school day ends at 3.15pm. Mrs Armstrong will be at the KS1 cloakroom door to welcome children into school from 8.35am. I will be waiting to meet children in the Year 2 classroom. I am available after 3.20pm to answer any questions that you may have.

Learning

This term, our first Geography topic is all about London. You can help your child at home by discussing important landmarks of London. You may be able to discuss visits to London if children have been lucky enough to visit!

In Science, we will be learning about living things and their habitats. You can help your child at home by looking for living things in your local environment and encouraging your child to ask questions about what they see.

In RE we will be learning about Jews. You can help your child at home by encouraging them to be inquisitive about the views of other people and how this affects their daily lives. We are planning to visit the synagogue later this term.

Each half term, I will send home a topic web so you know what your child is learning at school. I will also post on X so that you can see what we are up to each week. Updated logins have been added to Reading Records for you. These may be updated throughout the year.

PE

PE will be taught on a Monday afternoon. Please could all children come to school in their PE kit on this day. It would be very helpful if any child with long hair (boys as well as girls) has their hair tied up on this day and that children can fasten their own shoes (e.g. only wear lace up shoes if they can fasten them themselves!). Please note that children will not be able to take part in PE lessons if they are wearing jewellery of any kind (including stud earrings).

This term we are doing games/gymnastics/dance in our PE lessons.

Children will complete the Daily Mile in school too so school shoes must be suitable for this, please. Children can also wear black trainers if they prefer but these must be plain black without any coloured logos/designs.

Jewellery

Please can I ask that children do not wear any jewellery on any day for school. Thank you. Children wearing jewellery will be asked to remove it and bring it home. We cannot be held responsible if it goes missing.

Snacks and water

All children should bring a named water bottle each day. This will be taken home each evening to wash in preparation for the next day. In Year 2, snacks are provided.

Lunches

In Year 2, school lunches are provided free of charge for all children. We encourage all children to take up this offer and have a hot meal at lunchtime.

Reading

Reading is the most important skill children will learn at First School. We will continue to use book bags to bring books in and out of school.

Children will take a short comprehension quiz in their first week which will help them pick the right level of book from the library. As ever, we strongly encourage daily reading at home with an adult please.

Books must be returned before another is issued. This will be checked when we read the book with your child. Staff will listen to children read at least weekly, more frequently when possible.

Statutory Tests

In Year 2, children will undertake SATs in May/June. The Year 2 SATs are no longer a statutory requirement; however, we recognise the importance of assessment for learning so will be assessing children using these for our own use to help tailor support in Year 3.

Other belongings needed

All items of clothing including PE kits and shoes must be named. Hats, scarves and gloves must be kept into a draw string bag.

Donations

If your child grows out of their uniform, we have a uniform swap shop in the main foyer and would be very grateful if you could donate your unwanted uniform items.

Visits & Visitors

This year visits out of school and visitors into school will be linked to our learning each term. In Year 2, this extends to wider the Newcastle area. Year 2 will be visiting a local Jewish synagogue, the Grace Darling Museum and Newcastle Castle across the year.

If you have a particular knowledge of any of our curriculum areas, we would welcome your expertise!

Homework

Homework stickers will be given out every Thursday and will be stuck in the children's reading records, starting next week. These will consist of an English and Maths IXL objective that should be completed by the following Tuesday, please. These objectives will consolidate the learning that has taken place in class during the week. Also, spellings will be sent home on a Thursday in your child's spelling book. This follows the 'Look – Say – Cover – Write – Check' method that will be explicitly taught in school to aid children in learning their spellings, which will inevitably support their writing. Spelling quizzes will also take place every Thursday and will consist of 5 words that match a spelling pattern and 3 common exception words.

Times tables are very important – children can practise these using TTRS. Logins will be provided in Reading Records.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to email me at the below address. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know your child(ren) well.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Richardson

Holly.richardson@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Autumn Term Dates		
Autumn 1	Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	Friday 25 th October 2024
Autumn 2	Monday 4 th November 2024	Friday 20 th December 2024
Spring 1	Monday 6 th January 2025	Friday 21 st February 2025
Other important dates		
Class Photos	Wednesday 2 nd October 2024	
Synagogue visit	Tuesday 8 th October	
Forest School	Monday 23 rd September 2024	

Please also check the newsletter for new, upcoming dates or any changes. Thank you!

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14