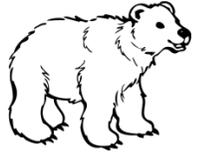


# Year 2 Welcome Letter Autumn 2018



Dear Polar Bear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome you back to the new school year! I am delighted to be taking the 2023 cohort once again, and I'm sure we'll have another fantastic year together. We are also lucky enough to have Miss Smith and Mrs Nicastro-Bear supporting our learning for another year too!

Your child is now amongst the oldest in the Infants. They will be called upon to be a good example for those children who are making the transition from early years into KS1. We will continue to share the same lunch and play times as Year 1 so an excellent example must be set in the playground as well as in the classroom.

## **General:**

As you know, all children should be at school, ready to begin learning, at 9.00am. They are very welcome in the classroom from 8:45am onwards for **handwriting or arithmetic practice**. Handwriting is an important part of the end of KS1 expectations, so your child having an extra 15 minutes of supported learning each morning gives your child a valuable opportunity to practice. Similarly, knowing multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 x tables is essential practice for helping build their problem solving skills. **Reading Records will also be checked at this time** to ensure that the children are completing their **daily** reading homework. One of our Year 2 team will be stationed at the door to welcome your child. Please feel free to say hello and pass on any messages! If you do not drop off and need to pass on any important information, please send me a message on Class Dojo.

## **The Classroom:**

Children will continue to receive '**Dojos**' for outstanding work/ behaviour. At the end of each term children are awarded special 'Red Letters', for consistent, outstanding behaviour over the whole term. In class, children can also lose points for inappropriate behaviour. Points are tallied at the end of each week and small prizes are awarded for the highest point scorer. Please do celebrate your child's successes by checking their Dojo points regularly (<https://teach.classdojo.com>). If anyone requires clarification of their codes, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **Class Trips:**

Wherever possible, class trips (e.g. to the CLC centre for computing) will be organised to assist in developing the children's understanding of class topics. Other trips will be planned throughout the year to support our learning of different topics. Some parental assistance will be required on outings and I will send group Dojo messages to organise this.

## **PE/School Uniform:**

PE lessons will take place **every Monday**. Your child needs clothing that they can move in, especially with the upcoming units of dance and gymnastics and therefore needs suitable clothing. Please ensure that your child has the correct school PE kit which is a plain white T-shirt, black leggings/jogging bottoms or shorts and black or white trainers. This needs to be kept in a named school PE bag/sack.

Please note that jewellery (apart from simple stud earrings for girls) is not part of the uniform and therefore not permitted. Any inappropriate item of jewellery worn to school will be kept in the school office for safekeeping until the end of the week, when it will be sent home. We ask that you continue to support us in ensuring that your child is dressed appropriately in school uniform every day.

### **Reading:**

Each **Tuesday**

the children will be given their Reading Records and reading books. Reading books stay at home for the week until it is time for Tuesday's book change when they need to be brought in to be swapped. Please do not bring in books before Tuesday as they are frequently left in school, meaning the child does not have them to read that evening. Children will bring home two banded books for their reading level and one picture book from the book corner. School reading books are to supplement home reading, so children should be reading books from their own home library in addition to the ones we send.

New books will be given only if the old books are returned on the Tuesday. With the Year 2 testing scheduled for May/June, it is really important that your child is read to, and heard reading, as often as possible. Hearing an adult read at bedtime will secure their understanding of stories, establish the correct rhythm and pronunciation of language and hopefully develop a lifelong love of books. Also, allowing them daily opportunities to read to you, during which time you listen, discuss and praise, will secure skills and give them confidence in the progress they make at this crucial stage in early reading.

They should spend a **minimum of 20 minutes every day** sharing their school book with an adult. Please sign their Reading Record with a brief comment on how much has been read and how easy/tricky they found it. This comment should ideally be written by the child. Reading Records are needed every single day for us to check.

### **Homework:**

Additional homework will **be sent out on Wednesdays and is due back on the following Monday**. Homework is meant to help your child practise their newly acquired skills and encourage a partnership between home and school learning. Mathematics will continue to be used for Numeracy, with some general activity sheets available outside the classroom as back-up in case you have IT issues! Literacy homework will be a mixture of comprehension tasks, handwriting as well as creative writing tasks, depending on the needs of the class that week.

Regardless of the homework set each week, routinely **reviewing times tables, number bonds, fractions, telling the time** and discussing number patterns will help your child's performance in school.

### **Prayer Bag:**

Once a week, a child will take the Prayer Bag home with them. These bags will include a rosary, religious artefacts and prayer cloths that can be used to set up a quiet reflective place in the home. Children will need to use the prayer bag to pray, reflect or meditate about whatever issue they wish and to record this time by drawing a picture, writing or having a photo taken of them in their prayer space. A piece of artwork reflecting whatever they prayed for or meditated about is sufficient.

The work completed at home will be stored in our class prayer folder and will be used as part of Class Worship. If you follow a different religion, please feel free to use your own artefacts for this activity. Even if you do not practice a faith, the Prayer Bag can be used for meditative thought and reflection and it is important that every child participates in this task.

**Spellings:**

Attached is a table of 100 common words used in Year 2. While we will continue to encourage using phonic skills for unfamiliar words, your child is expected to be spelling/ reading these words correctly without sounding them out. This term your child will be given: spelling words to do as handwriting practice; worksheets in which certain words are missing and need to be filled in and the context of a sentence and cards to match up (for example, root words and suffixes). **Spelling tests will happen weekly in the second half of the autumn term.**

**Music:** Children receive a weekly 30 minute music lesson from Miss Cotter on Wednesday afternoons as well as some singing/hymn practice, also on Wednesday afternoons. Aside from music lessons, we will occasionally learn new songs in class.

**Timetable:**

Attached is a copy of our class weekly timetable. This will keep you informed of our weekly sessions and also assist your child in organising their time both at home and school. Please display this timetable somewhere where it can be viewed by your child. I have also attached a table of 100 common words used in Year 2 as well as examples of what the children are aiming for to reach the expected level for writing in year 2. While we encourage using phonic skills for unfamiliar words, your child is expected to be spelling/ reading the common words correctly from memory.

Kind regards,

Ms Deanna Quirke

Year 2 Class Teacher

the	that	not	look	put
and	with	then	don't	could
a	all	were	come	house
to	we	go	will	old
said	can	little	into	too
in	are	as	back	by
he	up	no	from	day
I	had	mum	children	made
of	my	one	him	time
it	her	them	Mr	I'm
was	what	do	get	if
you	there	me	just	help
they	out	down	now	Mrs
on	this	dad	came	called
she	have	big	oh	here
is	went	when	about	off
for	be	it's	got	asked
at	like	see	their	saw
his	some	looked	people	make
but	so	very	your	an