



# Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

September 2016

Dear Parents/ carers

We are writing to outline some of the main points covered in the Year 2 curriculum meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

## Curriculum Content

### English

The children have a daily English lesson. Throughout the year the following aspects will be covered; reading comprehension, composition, vocabulary, grammar & punctuation and handwriting. These will be taught through a variety of different units covering fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The children will also continue with their phonics as well as learning variety of spelling patterns.

This year the children will also be taught how to join their handwriting. This is a slow and gradual process as it is important for each letter to be joined correctly.

Spellings will be linked to the phonics and spelling patterns the children are learning and sent home each week.

### Mathematics

The children have a daily maths lesson. The follows aspects will be covered throughout the year; number and place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions, measurement, geometry - properties of shapes & position and direction, and statistics.

Maths lessons will usually take the following form; firstly some mental and oral work with the whole class. The children may then work individually, in pairs or in groups for the main part of the lesson before coming together for a plenary session at the end.

Following the introduction of the new National Curriculum in 2014 there a greater focus on mental arithmetic. Therefore this is also a focus for us and the children will be doing a lot of work on their mental recall of number facts.

For example children in year 2 will be expected to know:

- both addition & subtraction number facts for all numbers to 20
- count both forwards & backwards in 2, 3, 5 & in tens from 0
- 2, 5 & 10 times tables

Maths homework will be related to the maths topic to be covered the following week.



Member 2015-2016

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## Foundation subjects

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Science	Animals, including humans and Everyday uses of materials	Plants	All living things and their habitats
History	Florence Nightingale and Guy Fawkes	Toys of the past	Man on the Moon and Seaside holidays of the past
Geography	Holidays and Map Skills	An Island Home	The Seaside
RE	Festivals and Celebrations	Special Books	Rules and Choices
Art	'Can building speak?' - using clay	Investigating materials - fabric & weaving	Mother Nature Design - using different mediums
Design & Technology	Making a container	Designing a coat for Joseph	Making a space buggy
Music	In music we follow the Music Express Scheme. There are many units which cover skills such as exploring sound, beat, pitch, listening, composing and performance. We teach children how to write simple rhythms using musical notation and encourage performance of compositions they have created.		
Computing	'Fix it & find' - programming, data handling & multimedia	'Animal Top Trumps' - programming, data handling & multimedia	'Shapes & safety' - programming, data handling, multimedia & technology in our lives
SEAL (Social & emotional aspects of learning)	New beginnings, Getting on and falling out and Say no to bullying	Going for goals and Good to be me	Relationships and Changes (transition to Year 3)

## PE

During the year the children will have the opportunity to participate in games, dance, outdoor and adventurous activities, gymnastics, health and fitness, athletics and swimming. PE will take place on Monday and Wednesday.

Please make sure that children have their **named** PE kit in school; shorts, tee shirt and daps. They will be sent home at holidays so they can be washed and you can check the PE kit and daps still fit.

Children who wear earring will be asked to either take them out or put tape on them. Please also ensure long hair is tied back.

Please ensure your child has a pair of named wellington boots in school.

## KS1 National Curriculum Assessments

These will take place in the first half of the Summer term. If at all possible please avoid taking the children on holiday during this time.

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## **Reading**

The children have many experiences of reading during the school day, including whole class and group reading sessions. We will also read individually with your child on a regular basis. However it is important for children to read their own book each day with you or another adult at home.

Please note the page number that your child has reached and sign or initial it. Please feel free to write any comments about your child's reading or other messages in the Reading Diary. **Reading books and diaries need to be in school every day.**

Please read with your child the 'Home School Agreements' and 'Pupil Acceptable Use Policies' you will find in the front of the reading diaries and sign them.

Please also check your child's book bag for homework and any other letters which may have been sent home.

## **Homework**

Homework is a very important part of the children's learning and reinforces what they do at school. Please read very carefully the details in the school's homework policy which will help you to help your child.

Spellings will usually be sent home on a Friday and then tested on the following Friday. Please use the look, say, cover, write, check method to help your child to learn spellings. Just testing them will not help them to actually learn to spell the words.

All children should practise the spellings. If your child finds spelling easy they should learn the Super Challenge words. All children will have a go at the words on the Friday test.

Maths homework will be on the reverse of your child's spellings and will usually be given on a Friday. Sometimes the maths homework will need to be handed in on the following Friday.

Try to make homework fun and enjoyable and not a chore. It helps to set a time and to provide a quiet, calm place for homework to happen.

## **Staffing**

Mrs Hawkins teaches Year 2 on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs Vickery teaches Year 2 on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We also have Mrs Evans, Mrs Leworthy & Miss Vogel working in the classroom as LSAs.

## **Behaviour & Anti-bullying**

At Dunster First School we have high expectations of behaviour. All staff work hard to have a clear and consistent approach to behaviour. Through SEAL and other aspects of the curriculum we encourage the children to follow the school's five golden rules. If necessary we will spend time discussing a specific rule or rules with the whole class e.g. circle time or with an individual child at any time during the school day.

If we do have concerns about your child's work or behaviour then we will contact you to talk through the issues and how we can resolve them. Likewise, if you have any concerns about your child's work or behaviour or would just like a chat to see how things are going, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time

Dunster First School takes very serious approach to dealing with bullying. Through SEAL, Anti-bullying week, E-safety work and other aspects of the curriculum we work hard to help children

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understand what is meant by the term bullying and prevent bullying occurring. However we also encourage the children report any incidents of bullying to a member of staff.

If you are concerned about bullying then your first point of contact should be either one of us. We will listen to your concerns; explain the school procedures and policy for dealing with alleged incidents of bullying and then follow these procedures. We will always contact you to let you know how the incident has been dealt with.

### **E-Safety**

As part of the curriculum your child will use a variety of technological devices including computers, IPADS and digital cameras to support their learning. However these 'everyday' devices, many of which allow access to the internet, can also pose many risks.

We work hard through SEAL, Anti-bullying week and Computing work to teach your child how to keep safe when using these devices. The children only use these devices at school when there is an appropriate adult present and only use programmes and websites that are appropriate for their age. They taught that if they read or see something online that makes them feel uncomfortable they should tell a grown up. In Year 2 we also use Espresso and 'Hector's World', [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5\\_7/hectorsworld](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/5_7/hectorsworld) to help explain how to keep safe whilst online.

Please read through the 'Pupil Acceptable Use Policy' in the reading diary with your child and get them to sign it.

### **Attendance**

Please inform the school if your child will not be attending school for any reason. Unauthorised absence will be noted and kept on your child's record. The curriculum is very detailed and your child cannot afford to miss large parts of it.

### **Medical Problems**

Please inform the school if your child has any short or long term medical problems such as food allergies or asthma.

### **Snack & Lunchtimes**

Children in Year 2 continue to receive free fruit as a morning snack and have access to their water bottles throughout the day. Therefore you do not need to send your child in with a snack. If your child would like milk then please contact Mrs Thrush in the school office or go to [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) for more details.

**All** children in Year 2 are entitled to free school meals.

### **Helping at school**

Throughout the year there are many opportunities to come into school and help. These include becoming a reading volunteer, joining us for trips/ walks, coming into the classroom to help with specific lessons or helping with changing for swimming. The help from volunteers is invaluable and much appreciated. **All volunteer have to be DBS checked.** If you are interested in helping then please contact us in Year 2 or Mrs Thrush for a DBS form.

### **Friends of Dunster First School (FODS)**

The Friends of Dunster First School (FODS) are always encouraging parent/ carers to attend meetings and get involved with the fundraising activities and social events that are organised to

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help further the education of your children at school. **The FODS AGM is on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.00pm in the school hall.**

**Finally**

The transition into Year 2 can take a little time but we aim to make it as smooth as possible. Your child may seem very tired at the beginning of the year; therefore the need for a good night's sleep is essential. We find once children have got used to Year 2 they thrive and thoroughly enjoy the new challenges Year 2 brings.

Thank you to those of you who attended Monday's meeting or who gave their apologies.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Hawkins and Ellen Vickery