Dear Parents / Guardians
We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the children to Year 2.

The purpose of this letter is just really to give you a brief introduction to Year 2 so that you are able to support your child's learning throughout the school year. We certainly value the input that you, as parents, are able to give the children to help consolidate and reinforce the learning that takes place within the classroom.

In Year 2, our ultimate priority has got to be to have happy children who want to come to school and learn, which is why we do run an open door policy in our classroom. So if you do need to speak to me, we can discuss any concerns via class dojo, arrange a phone call or speak after school. If you have a major concern or worry, please can I ask that you arrange a phone call or meeting with me rather than try to express it over dojo. Text can be interpreted the wrong way at times and things can come across in ways that are not meant. The Year 2 team this year comprises of myself, Mrs Norder and Mrs Brentnall.

In Year 2 there is a huge emphasis on learning spelling rules, so as well as learning the weekly spellings, it is important to reinforce the rules that go with them. These rules will be outlined with their spellings each week. Any support you can give will be invaluable to the children. The start of term will be devoted to checking some of the Year 1 spelling rules that are essential building blocks for Year 2 learning.

A separate topic web is also being sent out that outlines what we are covering in each subject. One central creative theme runs throughout the term and we link as much of our learning as possible to this theme. We do hope you find this information useful. However, in addition to this, outlined below is some of the key information you will need to know for Year 2.
We look forward to meeting you all soon.
Yours Sincerely
The Year 2 Team

<u>General</u>

- Mrs Atkinson will be teaching Year 2 on a Wednesday morning.
- Please provide labelled water bottles for the children to drink from. These will be sent home everyday.
- Please make sure that *all* items of school clothing are clearly labelled with the children's names.
- Every morning, reminders are given to the children to check their book bags for any messages / homework etc. that needs to be handed in but ultimately, we are trying to encourage the children to become more independent and take more responsibility for various routines within the class so please can you give them reminders in the mornings as well. I am sure you can appreciate that morning routines can be quite hectic!
- I do use the dojo behaviour system a lot in Year 2. Please do make sure you have signed up so that you can keep track of your child's behaviour.
- Messages can be sent via the dojo system but must be sent by midday that day if you wish me to see them that day. I will check at lunchtime for messages and will respond within one day if I need to. I will also send out class messages and individual messages at times. Please make sure any changes to pick up arrangements for a particular day go via the office as well as through the dojo in case I don't get a chance to read the message.
- Children will need a pair of outdoor wellies / old shoes / old trainers that can stay in a bag on their pegs for the term. This is so that we can make use of the outside space as much as possible.

PE

- We have two slots for PE a week on Thursday and Friday.
- PE kit should be green shorts or tracksuit bottoms (plain black), school t-shirt, school jumper / school hoodie and outdoor trainers. PE shorts can be worn if the weather is suitable. Children are to come dressed in their PE kits on their PE days. Please make sure that **ALL** items of clothing are clearly labelled, especially the hoodies as these are often taken off when children get hot.
- No jewellery can be worn for PE, long hair must be tied back and if children have their ears pierced, they must remove the earrings or have tape over them for the lesson.

Homework

- Children are expected to read everyday at home, whether it be the scheme books sent home, library books from school, books from home or local libraries. The books sent home match their current phonic level if they are still working within phase 5 or below. Please reread these phonics scheme books to encourage fluency. If they are working beyond phase 5, their books will be part of the colour banded books or free choice books.
- Children will receive spellings to learn each week which will normally be given out on the Friday and be expected to be learnt for the following Friday. The spellings will be put on Spelling Shed and part of the homework will be to complete the activities on Spelling Shed.
- Children will also receive other homework to support or reinforce class activities – further guidance on homework will be sent out with each actual piece set. You will be provided with a learning journal to complete some of the work in. This homework may include activities to support current learning in class or reading papers / maths papers.

Reading

- Please make sure that book bags are brought to school every day. Children will be asked to read their books in class when reading with an adult.
- Children's home reading books will be changed once a week but will include two / three scheme books and a library book to last for the week. We plan to keep to the same routine as last year with all books being changed on Fridays.
- Children will read two / three times a week in class. One of those sessions will be guided reading where they read in a group so that specific reading strategies and skills can be taught in more detail. Other reading sessions may include whole class reading, reading buddies or 1:1 reading.

Equipment List

Please can children bring in their own equipment to use in the classroom. We will have equipment in class as well, but it will help children to take responsibility for looking after things if it belongs to them. The last two items are a priority please. I would advise labelling the glue stick and whiteboard pen with their name.

- pencil case
- writing pencils
- colouring pencils
- felt tips
- rubbers
- sharpener
- **white board pen**
- **glue stick (preferably pritt stick as others don't stick properly)**