



St. Thomas's
CE Primary School

Kendal Green
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 5PP
01539 737373

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Friday 6th September 2024

Welcome to Year 2

A big welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer holidays and are refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead. I am really looking forward to welcoming your child into Year 2 and I am excited to get to know you and the children better over the coming year.

For those of you who don't know me, I am an experienced Year 2 teacher with 24 of my 28 years teaching being spent in Year 2. I call it the 'Ping' year, as children really do have those 'ping' moments where things come together.

I have worked for the local authority as a moderator, going into other schools and qualifying their Year 2 assessments. I have also been involved in the training of moderators and working with and training Year 2 teachers in other schools. I hold a dyslexia qualification.

In my spare time I am also a dance teacher at Elite Dance and teach at Stagecoach. I love using drama as a tool when I teach. If the children come home and say 'You'll never believe what Mrs Hope did!' I will have done it!

Staffing

Aside from myself, Mrs Coates will be in the class in the mornings and Mrs Hassall will also be with us some afternoons.





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PPA

Mr Jones will be covering the class on a Tuesday afternoon this half term and Tuesday morning next half term teaching RE and Computing.

Curriculum

Please see below for details of our learning for the Autumn Term:

Maths- Place Value/Addition and subtraction/2D and 3D Shape

English - River - Narrative/Letter writing, The Night Gardener - Narrative - Story settings/Diary

Science - Animals including humans and Uses of everyday materials.

RE - Who might be a role model for people/Harvest/What does the Nativity story teach Christians about Jesus?

Theme - Our themes for this term are learning about Great and Ghastly Events starting with The Great Fire of London, The Gunpowder Plot and Remembrance (History focus). During the second half of the term our theme is Post a Pringle (Design and Technology).

Reading and the Y2 Reading Challenge

In Year 2, the children are able to become more responsible for their own reading books. They will be told the colour box they can choose books from and can take 5 books per week. Books will be collected in and changed every Monday. Please send your child to school with their bookbags every day. **Your child may not bring home books in the band they were in at the end of Y1, this is normal after a long break.** I will be assessing them again in a few weeks time.





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The reading challenge has proven to be a great success. Every time the children read to an adult 5 times over 7 days (**Monday to Monday**) at home and school and it is recorded they will get a sticker. (Remember children, you don't have to only read school books; emails, letters, instructions, recipes etc can be included). When the children have filled their bookmark, they will get a special certificate. Happy reading!

Our class readers this term will be *The Hodgeheg* by Dick King-Smith, *The Twits* by Roald Dahl, *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel and *Gorilla* by Anthony Brown.

Spellings

We would encourage you to help in any way to improve your child's spelling ability by practicing their spellings at home. Please see a list of the Y2 spellings in your welcome pack.

Handwriting

The children will be continuing with the Penpals handwriting and will be learning joins. Please encourage your child to form all their letters correctly and use these joins in any writing they do at home, but not to join letters they haven't yet learned.

Class Value

As a church school we feel it is important that each class has a value that has been specifically chosen for them. The value in Year 2 is Trust and will be explored in our class assembly times, in our new Relection Area in the classroom and also linked to our whole school Collective Worship. Our overarching school value is Friendship.

Seesaw

As in previous years, I will be using Seesaw to upload work and activities, I will also be using it to put on messages for parents. Please can I ask that you click on 'like' after you have read any messages for parents so I know you have seen them.





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Welcome Pack

In your welcome pack you will find an overview of the learning which takes place in Y2. I have also included information on spelling, grammar, handwriting and phonics. Please let me know if there are any other resources you would like in order to help your child at home.

Homework

In addition to reading and TTRockstars, home learning tasks will be in the form of games (practical and online), research and investigations to be completed over a half term. There will be a sheet posted on Seesaw where the work the children complete at home can also be uploaded.

PE

PE will take place every Monday and Friday. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the correct PE uniform. On Fridays we are very lucky to be having Graeme, who works alongside PE Specialist Mr Moorehead, teaching us Ball Skills.

Uniform

Please can I ask you clearly label all jumpers and cardigans. This helps us get ready for hometime quickly.





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Visits and Trips

As a school we aim to plan out of school learning every term. The **estimated** costs of the trips are detailed below:

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Fire Station (History) No cost	TBC	Ragtag Arts (Visit in school) (Science/Art) The cost of this is being funded by the PTFA.	Dalton Zoo (Science/ Geography) £15	Kendal Bridge Walk (History/D&T/ Geography) No Cost	The Butterfly House (Science) £14

Please note the running of the trips are subject to the cost being covered by Parental contributions. If you would like any information regarding payment plan cards for any visits, please contact the office.

Promises

Our Promises Curriculum is unique to our school, providing 21 exciting opportunities for the children. Photographs and work linked with our Y2 Promises will be put on Seesaw and displayed in the classroom. Please see a copy of these in your welcome pack

Water bottles

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle in class. Please do not send your child with juice in their bottles.





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Handle with care

Morning drop offs can be busy getting the children into school. If you have any messages about your child, it would be really helpful if you could **email** these to me rather than tell me verbally. I keep my email open on the computer all day so I am able to pick things up quickly.

I appreciate that sometimes your child may be coming into school after a hard night, morning or weekend and I would like to provide them with additional care and support. Please email me with the heading '**Handle with care**' This will let me know your child may need extra help, patience, time and love during the day.

If at anytime you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at the above address.

I look forward to working with you and your child and to an exciting and fun Year 2.

Jo Hope

