



WILLIAM BARNES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 2 and Panda Class. I hope you've all had a good summer break. We are all hopeful that we will be able to work much closer with our families this year and I look forward to meeting you all properly and inviting you in regularly to share and celebrate our learning. If you would like to chat any time then I am usually available at the beginning of the day (8:30-8.45) or at end of the school day. I also check the class email address regularly so, please do contact me there on year2@williambarnes.dorset.sch.uk but urgent calls must be to the school office.

I will be teaching the class every day with the support of Mrs Palmer and Mrs Henley, except for on a Wednesday when the class will be taught for the morning by our PPA cover teacher, Miss Maynard, who worked with the class last year.

Encouraging Independence and Responsibility

In Year 2, we would like you to support us in enabling the children to become more independent and responsible for their belongings.

In the mornings, please say goodbye to your child in the playground as once the bell has gone the children will need to line up and bring their belongings into school by themselves.

You can help your child by ensuring your child has the following in school **EVERY DAY:**

- A bookbag containing their reading book and Reading Journal.
- Water bottle for use in the classroom (water only in the classroom please)
- Lunch (unless having a school lunch which must be booked in advance)
- Waterproof coat

We would prefer children not to bring rucksacs to school if possible please as our cloakroom area is rather small and lunchboxes and water bottles are stored separately as soon as they come in.

Please can you make sure that your child isn't bringing anything in from home eg small toys, jewellery, teddies etc unless this has been agreed with me.

Please make it easier for your child to look after their belongings by naming everything clearly.

PE

Similar to KS2 children, Year 2 have been coming in to school wearing their PE kit and keeping it on all day on PE days, so they don't need to bring their PE kit separately. Our PE day for this first half term is a **THURSDAY**, so please send your child to school in school PE kit; plain white or green William Barnes T-shirt, black/navy joggers, trainers and their school jumper over the top. For this term only, our second PE session is an Orienteering unit which doesn't require PE kit.

Home learning

Research has shown how important it is for school and home to work together and we strongly believe that your child will benefit from continuing their learning at home. We're sure that your child will also enjoy talking about and sharing with you the things that they are learning in class. So we would like to ask you to help your child with the following:

Phonics and Reading



All children are **expected to read 5 times every week**. Reading journals are checked and a new record sheet and activity will be put into the journal every Thursday. After listening to your child read please record the title of the book, pages read and any comments you would like to make on your child's reading. Some children will be expected to change their books independently this term when needed, so please remind them if they have forgotten. We will of course remind them in class. Many of the children in Year 2 start the year continuing to learn phonics and will be given a book that phonetically matches the level they are at. These books may be given more than once and will need to be read aloud three times before it is changed. Some of this reading will of course be to the Year 2 Team. I will send some information separately by the end of the week about phonics and how you support your child with their phonics and reading.

Home Talk School Write

HTSW will continue as a once a month activity and is a wonderful opportunity for you to support your child's writing and share in their learning. If you are ever unsure about this task, please do not hesitate to come and ask. Please note that the piece of writing that they will bring home will be unmarked as it will have only been produced that day.

Mathletics

The children will soon be given passwords to enable them to use the 'Mathletics' program on their home computer or tablet. The children will be using this occasionally in class to help improve their maths fluency and practicing at home would be very beneficial. We are looking forward to giving out lots of certificates this year!



Other information

Our topic will change every term, starting with 'Australia'. I have also attached a topic map to show you what the children will be learning about this term. If you have any expertise/items/ideas linked to what we are learning then please come and see us as we would love to include extra ideas and experiences whenever possible. If you have any items linked to Australia we would love to see them please!

We really look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilham, Mrs Palmer and Mrs Henley