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16th September 2009

Dear Parents

As we are now settled into the first term of your child's final year at Violet Lane, I would like to take this opportunity to explain a little about the organisation of Year Two and how you could help with this term's work at home.

Children in Year Two spend some time being taught in set groups in a daily maths lessons a weekly spelling lesson and on occasions for writing lessons. Your child will bring back a letter informing you of their set group teacher within the next couple of weeks.

In Year 2, spellings will be sent home weekly. Your children will continue to receive a reading book which will be sent home on their reading day. Maths homework will also be sent home twice every half term. **(Your comments in reading diaries continue to be important.)** Holiday homework will also be set which may require some 'research' and will be a topic based activity. Wherever possible, try to spend around ten minutes per night working on homework. Homework books will be sent home on a Thursday. Homework should take up to 30 minutes to complete. Please return homework books on a Tuesday.

Homework at the school follows national guidance and prepares the children well for later years, as well as for national tests in May next year.

For your information, these are the areas that we will be covering in some of the subject this term. Homework may sometimes follow on from these topics.

- Literacy -** *Using books to find information, developing descriptive and creative writing and developing awareness of punctuation. Re-telling stories read and demonstrating understanding by answering questions.*
- Maths -** *Using knowledge to solve problems. Using mathematics in real life situations – e.g. shopping, measuring, telling the time, playing maths games etc.*
- Science -** *Our bodies, how they work, how they are made up, keeping our bodies healthy, healthy eating. Electricity.*
- I.T. -** *Communicating information/word processing*
- Geography -** *Map work, environmental issues, similarities and differences in localities. Finding out about life in France (each Y2 class also has a ½ hour French lesson per week taught by Mrs Thomas.) Finding out about life in India.*
- History -** *Florence Nightingale, Guy Fawkes, Remembrance Day, The Great Fire of London.*

As part of the topic on France we will be sampling some authentic French food such as croissants, baguettes, brie, camembert, pate and cheese. If your child has any food allergies, please speak to his/her class teacher. We will also be inviting you into school one afternoon to help prepare and cook something French with the children and members of the catering team. The dates are as follows;

Wednesday 23rd September - Class 12

Wednesday 30th September - Class 13

Thursday 1st October - Class 11

Each session will start at 1.45 p.m. and last around 1 hour.

This year's annual theatre trip will be to see a performance of George's Marvellous Medicine. This will take place at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in January. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience a live theatrical performance and will form the basis of work completed in school. The cost of the visit will be approximately £15. More details to follow.

Could I just remind you of the care of the reading books that is necessary to ensure they stay undamaged.

- **Whenever the book is not being read, keep it tucked inside the diary, inside the plastic wallet.**
- **Ensure that it is always in your child's book bag and the book bag is sent to school every day.**
- **Do not allow your child to put drinks, snacks, etc. in book bag.**
- **Your child will only be allocated a new reading book, if their previous book is returned.**
- **Due to the expense of the new reading scheme a charge of £4 will be made if books are badly damaged or not returned after 2 weeks.**

We have already begun practising this year's production of 'The Snowman' with the help of Stephanie Parrott, the ballet teacher. Performances will be at the Brewhouse on the afternoon and evening of 19th November. More details to follow.

I hope that you found this information useful and would like to thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs F Brown (Deputy head teacher.)