

Dear Class 2,

Welcome back! Hoping you all had a lovely Summer break and are ready for a new year and a new start. I am absolutely delighted to have all my children back together and I would like to welcome my new Year 3 children to Class 2.

Our intention is to make this new term an exciting one, full of learning whilst keeping everyone safe. Therefore, can we remind you that we are happy for your child/children to bring in their own a pencil case, to include (a pencil, rubber, sharpener, pencil crayons, glue stick etc).

Our PE day is on a **Wednesday** and we will explore Invasion Games this term and Dance next half term. Children **do not** need to bring their PE bag into school, **they should come into school on Wednesday's ready**. Please check your child has:

- A Singleton PE white t-shirt or a polo white t-shirt
- Singleton school PE hoody
- Red shorts- no cycling shorts (in winter these can be replaced by **black** joggers)
- Trainers or pumps

*** All earrings must be taken out before the PE day.** Children must not wear earrings for PE. If your child cannot remove their earrings, they will take a non-active role in the PE lesson. Staff cannot remove earrings for your child.

School Timetable:

The school timetable will be packed full of wonderful, enriched opportunities to learn and we look forward to lots of fun ahead. We have returned to a full curriculum timetable for the new school year, with lots of exciting topics and chances to engage and learn new skills to ensure that we have a broad and balanced curriculum.

Snacks and drinks

Children are allowed to bring a snack to school for morning playtime. Please ensure this snack is a healthy fruit option. Water bottles should also be brought to school – children will have access to these throughout the day.

Birthdays

We no longer allow children to bring in treats on their birthday. As always, when it is a child's birthday this is highlighted in class and everyone will sing 'Happy Birthday' to them, but we will not be allowing sweets, cakes etc to be brought in and given out. This is due to a number of food allergies throughout school. We hope you understand the reasons behind this decision.

Literacy: As ever, a strong emphasis will be placed on re-visiting and developing key skills in reading, writing and SPAG. Handwriting and spellings are equally important and should be practised. Spelling lists will be given out each **Friday (starting Friday 6th Sept)** and tested the following week. This term we will also continue to use our fabulous scheme of work, where we will be focusing on a 'Teach through a text approach'. This term the children will have the opportunity to explore an exciting new topic- Magic and mystery. Exploring the fabulous text, Leon and the Place Between by Angela McAllister. Looking closely at own version fantasy narratives, writing persuasive posters, setting descriptions, thought bubbles/diaries and finally writing dialogue. Followed by a beautiful book called The Heart and the Bottle by Oliver Jeffers. Writing own version 'dilemma' narratives, dialogue, postcards, character description, diary entries, poetry and writing letters of advice.

Numeracy: In Numeracy we will be working hard again in all areas of basic Maths, focusing on addition/ subtraction, multiplication/ division, fractions, time, areas and shape. Children will be working towards securing and applying basic skills and applying their knowledge to mental maths and challenges. As previously mentioned, I would encourage all children to practise daily their times tables, and extend their knowledge to corresponding division facts ready for tests. Daily Ten, Rockstars, Squeebles and Purple Mash are ideal for this at home. Your support at home with homework or extra work is always appreciated. Year 4 children we work towards their times tables badge and a letter will follow shortly to explain this.

*See further note about Purple Mash to support with this.

Science: Our new Topic is Food and our Bodies. Looking closely at what humans and other animals need to live, food groups and nutrition. Continuing on to Skeletons; identifying that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support. Examining and asking the question, what is protection and movement? Then exploring bones, the brain and muscles. After half term we will learn about States. Here we will look at comparing and grouping materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases. Observing that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled. Melting and evaporation then finishing the term with the water cycle and the part played by evaporation and condensation.

Topic: Geography unit on, 'Climate and weather'. Looking at countries, map reading skills and locations. In the second half of the term we will explore the fantastic topic, The Stone Age. Looking closely at specific dates and terms, and by placing topics studied into different periods. Then making *some* links between and across periods, such as the differences between clothes, food, buildings or transport.

RE: We will continue to follow the Diocese plans and units on; Harvest – How do people of faith say thank you to God for the harvest. Followed by, Called by God – What does it mean to be called by God? This unit allows children the opportunity to consider what it means to be called by God and the responses people have made to that call. Then after half term Christmas. Reflecting on, Why Jesus described as the light of the world? And going on to explore the Jewish festival of light- Hannukah.

PHSE: We will continue to follow the Coram Education Scheme in PHSE, Me and My Relationships and Valuing Difference.

PE: The first half of the term we will be looking at Invasion games. The children will focus on demonstrating passes and learning types of passes. After half term we will move on to Dance. Children will learn to explore movement, communicating character and use simple choreographic principles to perform a more complex dance phrase. Also learning to communicate narrative with a partner and describe, interpret and evaluate their own and others dance.

Music: We will begin this half term looking at Kapow's scheme of work and music from South Africa. Learning features of staff notation and to recognise and play minims, semibreves and crochets and crochets rests by ear and from staff notation. Finally to compose rhythmic patterns for a gumboot dance.

ICT: Using our resource Purple Mash, learning about Internet Safety, our identities and self-image then Coding. Followed by online relationships after half term. Where we will look closely at keeping ourselves protected, be respectful online and how we leave a digital footprint.

French: The children will be following our fabulous French Programme on Kapow and focus on the unit, 'This is Me'. Recognising and responding to different greetings. Sounding out phonemes and beginning to notice key phonemes in French words. Finally forming phrases to say hello and introduce themselves before moving on to learning about the school day after half term.

ART & DT: Art this term in class will exploring the topic, 'Growing Artists'. Knowing the difference between organic and geometric shapes and using simple shapes to form the basis of a detailed drawing. Moving on to shading, learning to demonstrate a sense of light and dark and then exploring tone. We look forward to exploring DT within our **Fantastic Friday's**. This term the children will learn about outdoor and adventure in Forest schools and then we will move on the topic, 'Castles'.

*Please see separate Forest school letter- this will address clothing requirements- starting Friday 13th

Important information Recap:

- Book Changing day is **MONDAY**. In addition, each child will have the opportunity to visit the school library.

Homework

Homework is a vital element of the children's continued learning from school- in consolidating and practicing what is being taught in the classroom. We really need you to support us with this, as that partnership with you is vital in order to be consistent and united in our expectations. Therefore, we ask you to encourage your children to undertake and complete homework tasks in order to promote:

- good attitude to work
- self-esteem and a sense of achievement
- improved standards of performance

We value the support you give to your children through discussion of their homework and would especially ask you to ensure that your child has the time and environment in which to work undisturbed. We ask that you ensure that your child completes their homework each week.

Online homework will be set every Friday on 'My Maths'. Homework should be completed within one week (please remember to call in if any concerns). In addition, I would ask that all children **must read at least 3 times a week**. Children are free to change their books, when necessary, although this is usually done on Mondays. Some children who need extra help with reading will be heard every week and we try to record this in planners. Whatever stage your child is at in reading please encourage reading for enjoyment and understanding and also to help them to develop research skills. Times tables tests and practise will also continue in addition to the above and children will be regularly tested in class.

Homework grid below:



Class	Maximum Time per day spent on homework	Daily homework	Weekly tasks (Please note with IDL and tables you don't have to do it all in one go – you can spread out over the week.)		Homework Given out	Homework due in	Other
3/4	25 – 35 mins per night	10 mins reading each night (Independent readers at least 3 times a week)	My Maths	20/30mins	Usually Friday's online	Usually Friday's online	Throughout the year the children will also have:- • Home projects – Information will be sent out separately regarding these
			PURPLE MASH – times tables practice Year 4	20 mins	Usually Friday's online	N/A Just practice for Gov test yr4 However Year 3 can also go on and have a go.	
			Times tables – Rock stars, Hit the button, Topmarks	20 mins	N/A	N/A	

			IDL	20 mins	N/A	N/A	
3/4			Literacy-spellings	15 mins	Usually Friday's	Usually between Monday-Wednesday or date given	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This might be IDL, home projects or a specific piece of work Literacy/spellings LCWC and purple mash quiz or SPAG given to the children.
			Serial Mash	20 mins	Usually Monday's from 18 th Sept.	The following Monday	
Reading book information							
Books will be changed on Monday's							
Home projects							
Further information and dates on our Home projects. Dates for this will follow separately over the next few weeks.							

Purple Mash

You will be aware that at Singleton we use Purple Mash to support our teaching of the computing curriculum. Purple Mash is a fantastic platform that covers a wide range of subjects from the National Curriculum. This academic year, all pupils in Key Stage two will use Purple Mash for weekly spelling practice and also weekly reading (reading is in addition to their school reading book). Children's log in details for Purple Mash will be stuck in their reading planner. Year 4 will also have access to the times table check, this worked well last year and helped them prepare for the Government times tables test at the end of the year.

Purple Mash - Spellings

Every Friday, children will come home with a 'Look, cover, write and check' sheet to work through. Once completed, they should log on to Purple Mash and complete the corresponding quiz, which will support their learning of the spellings.

The first set of spellings will be given out on **Friday 9th** September. Children need to learn them, have completed the Look, cover, write, check sheet and the online quiz by the following Friday, where they will sit a short test in class.

Serial Mash – Reading

I have attached a separate letter which outlines how your child can access our online books. Every Wednesday your child will be set a chapter from a book to read. They should read the chapter and then answer the online quiz. The children's scores are sent back to my Purple Mash account. Your child can leave a short comment if they wish too.

The first book will be set on **Monday 16th** September.

Drop off and collection

A reminder that classroom doors open at 8:40am. Please be prompt when dropping off/ collecting pupils. Please ensure all children are accompanied by an adult at all times. I am unable to take messages or speak to parents before school, however please do go to the school office if you have an urgent query. I will be available at the end of the school day to speak to at the classroom door if you wish. Alternatively, send an email to the school office and they will forward this on to me.

Thank you for all your support, I am looking forward to another successful year and a wonderful term with my new children.

Many Thanks

Mrs Millward