



Singleton Church of England Primary School



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Head teacher: Mrs. Amanda Clayton

Dear Class 2,

Welcome back! Hoping you all had a lovely Christmas 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 take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy new year.

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 Gymnastics this term and net and wall games 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 10th January)** 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- Hope and Healing. Exploring the fabulous text, Winter's Child by Angela McAllister. Looking closely at fantasy story sequels. Writing postcards,

dialogue, setting descriptions as letters and retellings. Followed by a book called Escape from Pompeii by Christiana Balit. Writing newspaper reports, setting descriptions, diaries, letters and thought bubbles.

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 the Government test in June. The Purple Mash test replicates the test style and questions and therefore is an ideal tool for children to use at home as often as possible.

Science: Our new Topic is Forces and magnets. Looking closely at pushes and pulls and comparing how things move. Followed by practical experiments on different surfaces and then describing north and south magnetic poles. Continuing to Teeth and Eating; identifying the different types of teeth in humans and their functions. Asking the question, how do we look after our teeth? Finally moving on to the digestive system and food chains.

Topic: Geography unit on, 'Rivers'. Looking at countries, map reading skills and locations. In the second half of the term, we will explore the fantastic topic, Roman Britain. 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; Jesus – Why do Christians believe Jesus is the son of God? Followed by Easter – Is the cross a symbol of joy or sadness? This unit allows children the opportunity to consider and explore the easter story and the events of holy week. To then reflect on the joy and sadness during that week and develop the concept of salvation.

PHSE: We will continue to follow the Coram Education Scheme in PHSE; Keeping myself safe and then Rights and Responsibilities after half term.

PE: The first half of the term we will be looking at Gymnastics. The children will focus on demonstrating travelling with control and balance on 4 points. Jumping, rolling and landing safely. Followed by creating sequences with a partner using all the above skills. After half term we will move on Net and Wall games and skills. Children will learn to explore different throwing actions and consolidate catching skills. Progressing into racquet skills and devising their own game.

Music: We will begin this half term looking at Kapow's scheme of work and changes in pitch. Learning how to match movements to music, play a pentatonic melody, take part in a composition and work together to perform a piece of music.

ICT: Using our resource Purple Mash, learning about Internet Safety and reputations. Followed by spreadsheets and touch typing after half term.

French: The children will be continuing to follow our fabulous French Programme on Kapow and focus on the unit, 'Birthday celebrations'. Recognising numbers up to 30, calculate and read maths sums and then match months to their English equivalents. After half term the children will move onto colourful creatures. Learning about animals, their colour and their size.

ART & DT: DT this term we will be exploring the topic, 'Eating Seasonally'. Knowing that different fruits and vegetables grow in different countries and why. Understanding what seasonal means and designing own recipe using seasonal ingredients.

Fantastic Friday's. This term the children will take part in their musical theatre enrichment. Learning songs from the musical Matilda. Followed by Art, structure and 3D in the second term.

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 **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
2	25 – 35 mins per night	10 mins reading each night	My Maths	20/30mins	Usually Friday's online	Usually Friday's online	Throughout the year the children will also have:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home projects – Information will be sent out separately regarding these
		(Independent readers at least 3 times a week)	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	
2			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	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 10th January. 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 will be sending out 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 13th January 2025 for this term.

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 your fabulous children.

Many Thanks

Mrs Millward
Class 2 Teacher