



# Stone

Church of England Combined School

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## Building stepping stones to success



*Design adapted from the children of Stone C of E School*

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 2! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for all the excitement that Year 2 has to offer. In this letter I hope to give you and your child an introduction to the next stage of their learning journey.

Hopefully, it will answer any questions you may have about the routines and learning activities that your child will be engaged in during the next academic year. However, please do come and ask me if there is anything that I have not included that you would like to know.

### The Year 2 team

Mrs Fell will be the class teacher and Mrs Benfield, Mrs Dover and Ms Morris will be supporting the children in class.

### Homework

Homework is very important this year. The children will be given regular home learning in preparation for entering Key Stage 2 next year. Home learning will be given out weekly, on a Friday, and is due back in on the following Wednesday morning. Your child will be given a home learning book, in which all tasks will be written. Your child needs to take responsibility for his/her learning, developing a routine and making sure that home learning is not left to the last minute. Children should be able to complete their home learning independently.

Every week, your child will receive spelling words and multiplication tables to learn, as well as two tasks that will be related to their work in class. The children will have a multiplication test every Friday. There will be a spelling test every Wednesday. The spelling test will be done at the back of your child's home learning book, in order for you to monitor their progress and recap any words of which they are unsure.

### Reading

**Reading is an important part of your child's home learning** and they should be reading for at least 10 minutes daily. Your child should be encouraged to read for pleasure at home and make time for reading a variety of texts: stories, information texts, magazines, newspapers, poetry, recipes, instructions, lists, cartoons, brochures, etc. Lots of this may be guided by an adult but it is important as it allows the children exposure to texts that they would not access on their own.

This year we will continue using the reading record booklet where you and your child will be encouraged to write comments about their reading progress. It is important for your child to read aloud regularly in order to discuss the content of what they have read. This will improve their comprehension, broaden their vocabulary and allow them to develop their skills of inference and deduction. We would appreciate **at least** one comment by an adult weekly and some comments by the children if possible.

As a class, we will visit our fantastic brand new library every **Friday**. In this time, the teachers and teaching assistants will be supporting the children in selecting appropriate books. Each week your child will bring home a library book that they can swap in weekly library sessions. We hope that this will encourage the children to love reading as much as we do!

Guided reading will take place over the course of the week. The children will take part in a range of reading activities and will read with an adult once a week.

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Philippians 4:3*



### **Mathematics**

In Year 2, the children will need to begin to develop confidence in using and applying their knowledge of multiplication and related division facts. It is important that the children gain quick mental recall of multiplication facts, so that they are free to concentrate on applying them in a range of contexts. We will be focusing on learning our x2, x5 and x10 times tables and related division facts, e.g.  $2 \times 5 = 10$ , so  $10 \div 5 = 2$ .

The children can learn their tables any way that suits them. This could include:

- learning by rote i.e. saying the table over and over again, as a song;
- trying to identify patterns in the answers, then working out a general rule that will apply to that times table, e.g. all answers in the 5 times table end in a 5 or a 0, and the inverse for the operation of division, any number that ends in a 5 or a 0 can be divided by 5;
- using a 100 square to plot patterns;
- spotting doubles, e.g.  $2 \times 4 = 8$ , 4 is double 2, so  $4 \times 4 = \text{double } 8 = 16$
- using fingers to count in steps of different amounts
- answering quick fire questions in random order;

### **PE**

The children will have their P.E lessons on a **Wednesday** and a **Thursday**. During Spring Term 1, the children's P.E lesson on Wednesday will be moved to a different day due to Forest School. You will be made aware of the day change closer to the time. Please ensure that your child's P.E kit is fully named and in school for the relevant days. From the discussion at the parent meeting, I have decided that the children will be expected to take their P.E kits home **once a half term**. However, I am more than happy for the children to take their P.E kits home on a more regular basis if they wish.

### **Creative curriculum**

Our topic this half term is '**Heroes and Villains**'. In History, the children will be learning about significant individuals in local, national and international history. We will be learning about Roald Dahl during our Topic lessons, as well as learning about his book 'The BFG' in our English lessons. We will be having a Roald Dahl day as part of our WOW Day for this half term.

I have attached our Curriculum forecast, showing what will be covered this half term. You will be able to find out further information about what we are covering in class each term on the school's website.

If you have any queries about anything I have mentioned in this letter or indeed anything else you would like to talk about, please feel free to see me in the playground after school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Christina Fell