



Dear Parents of Year 2 children,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to Year 2 and we hope that they have settled in well to their new class.

The year 2 teachers this year are Mrs McDonnell in St Andrew's (2A) and Miss Neocleous in St Francis' class (2F). The teaching assistants are Mrs Cunningham in 2A and Mrs Barnes in 2F. The children will be taught Music by Mrs Mather, Spanish by Mrs Harrison and their outdoor PE will be taken by Mr Arnold and Miss Godwin. In class 2A, Mr Trestain will cover Mrs McDonnell's leadership time one afternoon a week.

Expectations

We continue to have very high expectations of the children's behaviour. The Good as Gold reward system is working well so far and we will continue to use this throughout the year. In Year 2 we would like to see the children growing in independence and self-confidence. Please ensure that all belongings are clearly labelled to make this job more manageable. We would ask for your co-operation in ensuring that the children are wearing the correct uniform at all times.

The Marist Learner is at the heart of all our learning. During each day, we will be reminding the children of what it means to be a Marist Learner and looking for examples of the attributes in practice.

Safeguarding and communication

At The Marist, the safety of your child is paramount. E-safety is an integral part of our curriculum and we ask for your support in demonstrating responsible internet and social media use to our children: this includes awareness of privacy when sharing photographs online.

Keeping children safe means fostering an open channel of communication between home and school: if you have any concerns, we would request that you speak to your child's class teacher or another member of staff in the first instance. Please support all our children by refraining from discussing school matters in an open forum – in our experience, the best way to resolve any issues is by speaking to us.

Curriculum

This year we are introducing the new National Curriculum and will be adopting a themed approach to our learning. We have a range of exciting topics:

Autumn: Alien invasion and Super heroes
Spring: Mexico and In the Night
Summer: At the Seaside and Wonderland

There will be lots of opportunities for parent involvement! Please look out for dress up days and encourage your child to continue their learning within these topics at home. Please also support them when they are completing research for topics at home.

English

Reading

Our aim is to create confident and enthusiastic readers. In year 2, the children are engaged in reading activities each day. They will be heard read by an adult, either individually or as part of a group, once a week. At other times, they may be heard by parent helpers. The main focus this year will be on the development of their comprehension skills, especially for those children who can already effectively decode unknown words. Please hear your child read each evening and remember to sign the reading record book when your child has read or finished the book so he/she can be issued a new book. A guide to helping you support your child at reading will be attached to each child's reading record.



Benchmarking: This is a very effective tool in assessing that the children are reading at their correct levels. Benchmarking looks not only at the child's fluency but also at their understanding of the text. We will decide when we feel your child is ready to be tested, bearing in mind that your child may not automatically move up each time they are benchmarked. Please remember that the focus in Year 2 is on comprehension and being able to 'read between the lines' rather than simply on progressing through the different levels.

Spelling

At the start of each term, your child will be given a spelling booklet with all the lists of words to be covered that term. Please check the date carefully to ensure that your child is learning the correct set of words. Spellings will be tested each Friday and books sent home to be returned the following Monday. The words are usually grouped by sound patterns with some additional key vocabulary. Children will have handwriting sheets in class to help practise their spellings. In addition, we attach the list of exception words the children in Year 2 will be expected to know by the end of the year.

Handwriting

All the children should be joining up all their small letters by the end of the year using letters that end with a lead out stroke. Please emphasise the correct use of capital letters i.e. not in the middle of sentences and when doing homework, please ensure children use joined up writing and a pencil!

Maths

The children should already be confident with number bonds to 10 and need to be working on knowing their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables off by heart. In class, we use a range of practical materials including number lines and 100 squares. We attach a 100 square for use at home.

We teach addition and subtraction using partitioning i.e. splitting numbers into tens and units but we do not introduce the column method until year 3. You can best support your child in maths at home by helping them learn their times tables, learning the time to the nearest 5 minutes, helping them to recognise different coins and allowing them to practice different forms of measurement.

RE

This term we will focus on three key themes; those of Domestic Church (Beginnings), Baptism and Confirmation (Signs and Symbols) and Advent and Christmas (Preparing). We will also be looking at Judaism as our Other Faiths week this term. In the summer, term our other faiths week will focus on Islam.

PE

PE will take place twice a week. Please ensure children have their PE kit in school throughout the week. Plimsolls or **plain** black or white trainers (not lace up) can be worn for outside games. When the weather is cold, the children are allowed to wear school tracksuits. Order forms for these are available from the office.

Please note that the girls are not allowed to wear tights during PE lessons so please make sure they have a pair of socks in their PE kit during winter months.

Homework

The children will be given reading every day, spellings to learn throughout the week and weekend homework. The weekend homework will be maths, English or topic related. Sometimes homework will be set via the MyMaths website; we have already sorted out logins for the children. (Please keep this in a safe place). Homework is set on a Thursday, to be completed by the following Monday. Please make sure all homework is named and dated. Occasionally school work may be sent home to be completed.



End of Key Stage Assessment

Year 2 is the end of Key Stage 1 and all the children at this age are assessed nationally in English, Maths and Science. These tests will be carried out during the month of May. There will be an information meeting nearer the time.

Trips

We have arranged a school trip to Surrey Wildlife Centre on Tuesday 27th September.

If you are available to help on this trip and hold a current DBS check, please let us know. All parent helpers must now be police checked before working/helping with children. The school does not charge for volunteers' checks however contributions are welcome. Please let the class teacher know if you are interested and then make an appointment with the Office to go through the paperwork. You will then have a brief meeting with Mrs Licence to run through our Volunteer Agreement.

If you wish to speak to the teacher about a minor matter, please could you wait until all the children have been dismissed at the end of the day. If there is a more serious matter you wish to discuss, please make an appointment through the school office.

We hope your child will have a happy and productive year in Year 2 and we thank you for your continued support.

Mrs McDonnell

Miss Neocleous