



## **Year 2 parent/carer information**

Welcome to Swallows and Finches, and Year 2!

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and working with you.

We have hopefully listed much of the information you will need to help your child be their best at school, but do let us know about any queries or concerns you may have.

In Year 2, we are focussing on developing children's independence so please encourage your child to come into class and get themselves ready to learn on their own. As always, St Martin's has an open door policy, so if there is anything that you would like to discuss you are very welcome to pop in before or after school to speak to us if you need to.

As the weather starts to become more Autumnal, please make sure that your child brings a coat to school so that they can enjoy their time outside. We ask that children bring a water bottle to school every day and, if possible, a book bag to carry their reading books in.

### **Theme for the Autumn term**

The theme this term is 'Belonging' and the children will be responding to this across all areas of the curriculum. For more details on what we will be covering throughout the term, please see the Year 2 learning narrative on the school website where you will also be able to find copies of our timetables.

### **Expectations**

We have the highest expectations for all of the children in Year 2. Children are encouraged to be the best they can be at all times. We will endeavour to understand why children might be behaving in the way they do and support them to make the right choices.

### **Class Dojo**

This is a system that allows us to keep in touch with you via email and is also a reward scheme where you can see how well your child has done each day. Children are encouraged to demonstrate good behaviour such as listening well, being on task and working as a team. Children are awarded 'dojos' for demonstrating good behaviour and respond very well to this. There are even prizes for being 'Chief dojo of the day'! If you haven't already signed up, please let us know and we will give you a login code.

### **Reading**

Children will be encouraged to read at school and will be listened to reading during guided reading sessions. We will gradually be introducing our Accelerated Reader scheme where children will choose books from the library to read. After they have read the book they will take an online AR comprehension quiz to check their understanding of the books they have read.

## **P.E.**

All children are expected to have a P.E. kit in school so that they can fully partake in this important aspect of their learning. If your child is not well enough to take part in P.E. please provide a signed letter to let us know.

Year 2 P.E. will take place on Monday mornings in the hall and Tuesday afternoons in the playground.

Children will also take part in LEAP activities each week. This is a short and fun series of physical activity that aims to develop coordination and strength. Children will wear their uniform during these sessions.

## **Forest school**

The children will take part in a weekly Forest School session for one half of each term on Thursday mornings. Swallows sessions will be during the first half of the term, and Finches sessions will take place during the second half term. To make the most of Forest School, children need to arrive at school in appropriate kit that you don't mind getting muddy: warm socks, trousers, track suit bottoms, t-shirt, fleece/jumper, waterproof jackets and trousers, hats and gloves plus the all important wellies. This will ensure that children are able to enjoy these sessions to the full. Please ensure that all items of forest kit are named.

## **Home learning**

Our aim is to encourage the children to become independent learners. At the start of each term, children will be given a range of tasks that they can choose to complete at home. They are welcome to complete as many or as few as tasks as they like. Children can bring their home learning in to share with their teacher and the class at any point during the term.

Your child will be provided with spellings to learn at home. Research shows that weekly spelling tests, which you probably did as a child, are not helpful in teaching children to spell well. We prefer to teach the children spelling strategies to help them improve their spelling and practising this at home will help secure their knowledge.

We will also be providing online maths activities via MyMaths. This is an engaging and fun way for your child to consolidate what they have learned and to recap their understanding of maths taught in class. Logins stay the same, but if you are new to MyMaths, please let us know and we will provide you with details of how to access the website and log in.

Please also let us know if you are unsure of any aspect of your child's learning, or if you would like to discuss your child's progress during the year.

With best wishes

Sue Edden and Catherine Maddison