



13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Firstly, I would like to thank both yourselves and your wonderful children for making the first days in school successful. It has been an absolute joy to return from the holidays to such a wonderful class. The children have settled quickly and are already working more independently and are thinking about how they can be role models within the school. If you have any questions or concerns with anything, then please let me or any of the school team know. We will always endeavor to help in whichever way we can. I am extremely proud of all the children in Red Squirrel class and the way they returned to school and settled into Year 2.

#### **Red Squirrels Class Expectations**

We spent our first few days talking about the rules that the children would like to have in our class to ensure that everyone can learn in a happy and safe way. We linked this to our Super Six Values, and we now have a set of reminders/rules which we have all signed to show our agreement. It was lovely to discuss with the children how they would like to become role models for the younger children in school.

#### **Online Safety**

We have been discussing the importance of keeping ourselves and each other safe online and have selected our class Online Safety Leads which the children enjoyed voting on. We have taken the time to remind the children about how to keep safe when online and what to do if they are worried about something they read or see.

#### **Our class learning**

This term, we are excited to embark on our new geography-focused unit, "Our Community" Throughout the coming weeks, we will explore the physical and human geography of the local area. We'll be learning about key features such as parks, rivers, and important landmarks, as well as how people use these spaces. We will also be mapping our community, identifying different places and discussing how they connect and support one another. This hands-on exploration will help your child develop a stronger sense of place and understand the geography of the world right outside their door. We look forward to a fantastic term of discovery!

#### **Weekly timetable**

PE will be held on a **Monday**. Please ensure your child wears their full PE kit to school, including trousers, leggings or joggers as well as a school jumper, as these will be essential for outdoor PE lessons, as we head into the colder months. Please ensure that every item of clothing is **clearly labelled**. **Please remember that the only jewellery to be worn by the children is stud earrings. These must be taken out by parents on PE days unless your child can take their earrings out independently.**

**Love of Learning, Love of Life, Love of One Another**

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*We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.*

### **Outdoor Lessons**

Outdoor lessons will be every other week on Friday morning.

**Dates: 20th Sept 4<sup>th</sup> Oct and 18th Oct.**

For Outdoor lessons, the children will need to come to school in their outdoor clothes, carrying with them their school uniform to change into after our sessions. They will also need a pair of old trainers or as the weather gets wetter a pair of wellie boots. Outdoor clothes need to be 'old' clothes suitable for climbing trees and playing in the undergrowth: long sleeves and trousers are compulsory. An old waterproof coat is also needed as we go into winter; we will go out whatever the weather.

### **Home Learning**

Home learning books will be going home on Tuesday, and they will need to be returned to school by the following **Monday**. In the book there will be a weekly spelling/phonics activity along with some math games/activities they could complete at home to build upon what we are covering in class. In the front of their home learning book is a copy of the Year 2 and Year 1 common exception words, please practice these regularly at home.

### **Reading**

Children will be continuing to read books from our *Unlocking Letters and Sounds* reading scheme that link closely with the graphemes and phonemes we will be learning in school. Children will be regularly assessed to ensure their reading books match their reading ability.

The Reading Scheme adopts a 3 read approach for each reading scheme book your child brings home.

- The first read should focus on decoding and reading each word confidently. The books will only contain words which are made up of phonemes your child has covered as part of the phonic program.
- The second read should focus on supporting your child with using a 'storytelling' voice to read their book.
- The third read should focus on shared reading and engaging your child's comprehension skills.

It will be helpful if you are able to comment on these focuses in the reading record book. This will mean that your child will have their book for a longer time. We would not expect to be changing books more than two or three times a week. Further information on our reading expectations will be shared in our Class Expectations sessions coming up in a couple of weeks. We encourage you to read as often as possible with your child as the benefits are so far reaching.

Thank you so much for all your support so far. I am looking forward to getting to know your children and work alongside you to make sure their school year is fun, challenging and unleashes their full potential.

Best wishes,

Mrs Dodkin

**Red Squirrel Class Team**