



OUGHTON LIFE:

Learning, Inclusion, Friendship, Enjoyment..... for everyone.

Everyone – children, staff and families.

Year 2 Parent Handbook

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had a lovely Summer. There are lots of exciting activities planned this year. Within this booklet, we have put together an overview of the curriculum for your child this year and also some general information and reminders that we hope you will find useful. The booklets are specific to each year group so if you have more than one child please do read each booklet. Copies of these are also available on the school website and through the school office.

Welcome to Year 2

Key Stage Leader – Miss Hurley (who also teaches Reception)

Year 2 Oak Class – Mrs Lopez and Mrs Strange (Teacher)
Mrs Burke (Teaching Assistant) will also be working in Year 2.

Working Together

Your support is important to enable your child to do as well as they can and we value a close working relationship with all Parents and Carers. We aim for children to leave our school having achieved their best, by developing their skills and talents through a range of learning activities and experiences. The school teaches a broad and balanced curriculum based on the National Curriculum, which is enriched through additional events and activities. We expect children to participate fully in events and educational visits. If there is a concern or difficulty in your child participating, please speak to your child's Class Teacher or the Key Stage Leader in confidence.

Your child will be given home learning activities. Please support your child in completing these. It is important that home learning is completed as it supplements learning at school and gives children the opportunity to practise their skills and extend their learning further. Your child's Teacher will be the key point of contact for you and it is most helpful if you let the Teacher know about any matters that may affect your child, so that we can support them in school. You may sometimes have questions or concerns and your child's Teacher will be happy to discuss these with you. Brief updates, for example about end of day collection, can be easily exchanged at the classroom door as

your child arrives for school. However, it is best to arrange a meeting if you wish to have a more detailed conversation. Feel free to ring the School Office 01462 450716 to leave a message for the Teacher who will then ring you back at a convenient time and/or arrange a meeting. Please be aware, discussions at the end of the school day must occur after all children have been dismissed to their Parents/Carers.

Most matters will be appropriately discussed and resolved with the Teacher. However, you may feel a matter is more appropriately discussed with a more senior member of staff, in which case you may wish to arrange a conversation with either your child's Phase Leader or one of our Assistant Headteachers – Mrs Phillipson or Mrs Smith. In some cases, you may wish to speak to Mrs Clayton our Headteacher. Any conversations or meetings can be arranged either directly with the Class Teacher or via the School Office 01462 450716.

If you feel that your child or your family require some Pastoral Support, please pop in the School Office or ring to contact Mrs Woollon, our Pastoral Support Manager. Mrs Phillipson is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator if you have a query about Special Needs. If you have a concern about the safety of any child, within our school or out of school, please contact one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads for Child Protection – Mrs Clayton, Mrs Phillipson or Mrs Woollon.

Timetable and School day

Just to remind you, we open the classroom door at 8:45am and our learning starts at this time. Please ensure that your child is on time for school to enable a good start to the school day. Staff are working with children at this time so be aware, it can be difficult to talk to Parents at the door with children in the classroom.

We teach Maths and English each day, this includes Guided Reading and Phonics. In the afternoons, we teach the Foundation subjects and other Core subjects such as Science, Computing, Geography, History, RE, PE, Art, Design and Technology (DT), Music and Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE). These subjects build up our curriculum and ensure that we teach a rich, broad and varied curriculum to every child.

Attendance

It is vital that every child attends school regularly. There is a strong link between children's good progress in school and their good attendance. We are a Local Authority school and governed by both the LA and Government policies. Holidays and days out of school will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances deemed by the Headteacher. Any requests will be considered and authorised at the Headteacher's discretion in accordance with the Local Authority and National guidelines.

Please be aware that we issue penalty fines and lates are also included within this. It is essential that children do not miss learning through being late for school. This disrupts their start to the school day and also impacts on the teaching of the class. Please read our Attendance Policy, which is on the website for more information. Please also read our Attendance Newsletter – Attendance Matters.

In Year 2, we aim to win the Attendance Award each week! As a school, we aim for every child to attend 96% or above. When a child is absent from school, it is difficult for them to catch up. Please help us to be the best class in the school for attendance! We give rewards for attendance – certificates as well as a prize draw!

Curriculum and how you can help your child

Our Curriculum Overview for Year 2 will be sent to you and is also on our website. This enables you to see the topics / key learning areas taught across the year in all of the subjects.

Maths: The National Curriculum is designed to ensure all pupils become fluent in the fundamentals of Maths, solve problems and reason mathematically. Fluency in Maths is related to children being able to learn and remember key mathematical facts e.g. the 2 times table. Problem Solving is the ability to apply Maths to a variety of problems e.g. word problems and investigations. Reasoning is to use what is known to tackle a problem and make connections between their learning.

Our School Calculation policy is available to view on the school website.

You can help your child by working with them to learn their number bonds to 10. These are pairs of numbers that go together to make 10 such as 5 and 5. Also, they can develop their fluency in number by practising adding and subtracting one-digit numbers and this will support their learning in school. This can be in practical situations such as shopping or sorting toys at home. Skills such as telling the time and using money to pay for items will also support their learning at school. Children can be encouraged to use mathematical language as well, such as days of the week and months of the year, positional language (on, above, below, next to, behind etc) and vocabulary relating to measuring, such as longer, shorter, heavier and lighter. The children also need to know the times table facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

English: The National Curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils become fluent and confident speakers, readers and writers. Language is a key priority at Oughton Primary and we know that language and vocabulary is the key to success in life. Reading is vital as it helps us learn in all other subjects. In Year 2, some children also use the Little Wandle Phonics programme to help them develop their early reading and writing skills.

Please listen to your child read each day and sign their Reading Record Book. We expect the children to read to an adult at home at least three times a week, with an aim of 5 times a week, as part of their weekly home learning. Please discuss books with your child as well as listening to them read to help them improve their comprehension and deeper understanding of a text.

Please read the information in the Reading Record Book. Children will be rewarded for reading at home as they move around the World! Reading Around the World offers challenges and rewards throughout.

Also, the children will bring home a book from the class library for you to share with them; we are never too old to listen to stories! It is important that we build up vocabulary and listening and discussing stories helps this. Help your child practise with their spelling. Here are the spelling words expected to be known by the end of Year 2:

Word list – Year 2

door, floor, poor, because, find, kind, mind, behind, child, children, wild, climb, most, only, both, old, cold, gold, hold, told, every, everybody, even, great, break, steak, pretty, beautiful, after, fast, last, past, father, class, grass, pass, plant, path, bath, hour, move, prove, improve, sure, sugar, eye, could, should, would, who, whole, any, many, clothes, busy, people, water, again, half, money, Mr, Mrs, parents, Christmas

Science: This year our topics are Animals including Humans, Uses of Everyday Materials, Living Things and their Habitats and Plants. To help your child build up their knowledge, you could do some research about these topics and find out language associated with these areas.

RE: This year we will be learning about Symbols and Actions, Giving and Receiving, Special Places, Beliefs and Practices relating to Easter, Religious Leaders and Ultimate Questions. If you are celebrating a specific religious festival / celebration at home, we would love to hear about it and share this with the rest of our class.

Computing: We will be learning to use and make Powerpoints, how to program Turtle Logo and Scratch and Computer Art. We will also be teaching the children how to keep themselves safe when using computers. Please reinforce this at home.

History: Our topics this year are Florence Nightingale, Victorian Homes and the history of transport over time and the people associated with it. Research about these topics will help the children understand more about them.

Geography: We will answer the questions: Why don't penguins need to fly? How does Kampong Ayer compare to where I live? Why does it matter where our food comes from? Talk to your child about the different places in the world to extend their knowledge.

Music: We will focus on the music of Hands, Feet, Heart, I Wanna Play in a Band and Zoo Time. Listen to different music with your child and talk about their opinions of it.

Art: This year we will explore famous artists and their styles relating to the themes of Animals and Landscapes, Rainforest Art and Natural Structures which will also include clay work. Discuss different Art work with your child and colours as this will support the work that they are doing at school.

Design and Technology (DT): This year we will design, make and evaluate Healthy Snacks, Puppets and Cars. These topics include skills that the children can practise at home such as cutting, peeling, sewing and measuring.

PE: This year, we will be focusing on Striking and Fielding, Dance, Gymnastics, Ball skills, Fitness, Sending and Receiving, Invasion Games, Net and Wall Games, Athletics and Fundamentals. We will be running the 'Daily Dash' to enhance fitness skills. Please ensure that your child has their trainers in school every day.

PSHE: The whole school themes are Being Me in my World, Celebrating Difference, Goals and dreams, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me. We also include Sex Relationship Education in the Summer term. In November, we will be focusing on anti-bullying and learning about what this means. It is important that we talk about our emotions and feelings so further work at home would be beneficial.

Useful websites to help your child:

Oughton Primary and Nursery School Website: <http://www.oughton.herts.sch.uk>

TT Rock stars (the children will receive their logins in the Spring Term): <https://play.ttrockstars.com>

Mathletics: <https://login.mathletics.com/>

Your child will have a log in for both Mathletics and Times Table Rocks Stars, please see their Reading Record.

Please look at www.oughton.herts.sch.uk for more information about our Curriculum. Also, keep an eye on our Class page – photos will be added throughout the year.

Trips, Events and Key Dates

Year 2 Parental Meeting is being held on **Wednesday 20th September at 3:30pm** to discuss the curriculum in Year 2 and ways in which you can help your child further with their learning.

Year 2 will be holding a Let's Celebrate our Learning Assembly on **Tuesday 12th March at 2:50pm**. Please join us for this. This is an opportunity for the children to tell you about their learning.

In Year 2, the children will also have the chance to visit St Mark's Church and the Shuttleworth Collection. The first is linked to our RE learning and the second gives the children opportunities to take part in hands on workshops about the history of transport.

There will be some 'Wow' Days across the year such as Antarctica Day on **Wednesday 18th October** where the children will use their geographical skills to plan a route, compare the weather with England and research the landscape. On this day, they will be dressing up for cold weather! There will be a workshop on **Wednesday 28th February** led by the museum on what life was like in Victorian times. There will be a DT Making Puppets Wow Day on **Wednesday 27th March**. In the Summer Term, the children will be mechanics for a day on **Wednesday 10th July** when they will design and make their own cars. They will be dressing up as mechanics on this day too.

Other whole school dates:

Monday 18th September Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Friday 29th September Parents / Carers Macmillan Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime
Tuesday 10th October 3:15pm Scarecrow Festival, celebrating Harvest
Monday 16th October Individual school photos
Wednesday 18th October 4-6pm Parents / Carers Open Evening
Thursday 19th October 6-8pm Parents / Carers Open Evening
Half term Week beginning 23rd October 2023
Tuesday 31st October Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Week beginning 13th November - Anti-bullying Week
Friday 1st December Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Thursday 7th December – Choir visit to Cheshire Home
Tuesday 12th December – Trip to the Pantomime at Stevenage Year 4, 5 and 6
Tuesday 12th December – EYFS Nativity (Reception and Nursery)
Wednesday 13th December – Trip to the Pantomime at Stevenage Year 1, 2 and 3
Thursday 14th December – Key Stage 1 Performance afternoon (Year 1 and 2)
Friday 15th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner (whole school)
Monday 18th December – Key Stage 2 Carol Concert afternoon (Year 3, 4, 5 and 6) Christmas Tree Festival afterschool
Tuesday 19th December – last day of term
Wednesday 20th December – Occasional Day – no children in school

Thursday 3rd January – children back to school
Thursday 1st February – Choir – Young Voices
Week beginning 12th February – Feel Good Week
Friday 16th February – Inset Day – No children in school
Half term week beginning 19th February.
Wednesday 28th February 4-6pm Parents / Carers Open Evening
Thursday 29th February 6-8pm Parents / Carers Open Evening
Friday 1st March Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Wednesday 6th March – KS 1 and 2 Theatre Production of the Little Princess
Thursday 7th March – World Book Day – details to follow nearer the time
Thursday 28th March – last day of the Spring term

Monday 15th April – children back to school
Tuesday 23rd April Class Photos
Tuesday 23rd April Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)
Monday 6th May – Bank holiday – no children in school
Fortnight beginning Monday 20th May – Celebrating the Arts
Friday 24th May – Inset Day – no children in school
Half term week beginning 27th May

Thursday 6th June – Art Exhibition after school

Thursday 20th June – Sports Afternoon - Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (Reserve Thurs 27th June)

Friday 28th June Parents / Carers Coffee Morning at drop off – in Lime (Breakfast Club room)

Thursday 11th July – Transition Day

Tuesday 23rd July - last day of term

We are also hoping to arrange a Parental Workshop on Emotional Regulation led by our Mental Health Support Team.

Please see our website for dates regarding holidays and Inset days. There will be extra dates and events throughout the year so please make sure that you read all correspondence via Arbor and all newsletters. Please note, dates may change if necessary.

Online Safety

Throughout all of the units in Computing lessons, children will be taught how to keep safe when using any computer, tablet or website. This will include the safe use of photographs, usernames and email. Children are encouraged to use tablets and computers in the presence of their Parents at home. We will follow up any concerns regarding children's use of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp etc. Social Media sites are not considered appropriate for children of Primary school age. Please follow the Government guidance and age guidance for games, apps and media sites.

Home Learning

We expect every child to complete their home learning tasks. We will notify you weekly via Arbor regarding what homework has been set.

We expect every child to read regularly as already stated. A Reading Comprehension book will be given out and one section will need to be completed each week.

Maths home learning will be set weekly using Mathletics. See your child's Reading Record Book for their log in.

Some children may be set extra Reading work using Lexia.

General Information

School book bags: These can be bought from the School Office. Children are expected to bring their reading book in each day. Please can water bottles not be stored within bags as we have had lots of books damaged by leaking water bottles.

Snacks: As a school, we know how important healthy eating is. The Government provides fruit or vegetable snack for Early Years and Key Stage 1 children. We also provide milk for children to drink during the morning too if they wish.

Dinners: Herts Catering Ltd provide our school dinners and offer a hot meal each day which is either meat or vegetarian as well as jacket potato option. They also offer a cold packed lunch option. Children pick their lunches each day in class. We provide milk for KS 1 children to drink at lunchtimes if they wish.

If you provide a home packed lunch for your child, please remember, we are a nut free school. Nuts must not be brought into school and this includes chocolate spreads which often contain nuts. (Be aware of almonds in sun cream lotion too.) Home packed lunches need to be healthy and balanced – no chocolate bars or fizzy / high sugar drinks.

Every child needs their own named water bottle to ensure they get enough fluids during the school day. We encourage children to drink water in the school day and do not allow any other drinks (unless they are part of their packed lunch).

PE and PE kit

Our PE days are Monday and Friday.

Please ensure that your child brings their PE kit in on the first date of term – white t-shirt, black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms and trainers- and this will remain in school. It will be sent home at half term to be washed.

Fitness is a key focus in Oughton and children in KS 1 and 2 will be running our 'Daily Dash' circuit each day. Please ensure that your child has their trainers in every day.

Clubs

As a school, we offer a range of sport and subject-based clubs which will be delivered by staff throughout the year. Messages will be sent about clubs via Arbor.

Breakfast Club

Premier Education provide a Breakfast Club within school for Reception to Year 6 children. Please book your child in – there is a link from our website. The room which this is held in is Lime, access is via Moss Way Red gate and through the green gate, first classroom is Lime.

After School Club

We provide an after-school provision from 3:15pm-6pm which includes a healthy snack. If you require a place for your child, please book and pay via Arbor. The room which this is held in is Lime, access is via Moss Way Red gate and through the green gate, first classroom is Lime.

Rewards / Houses

We will continue to use House Points and awards such as 'The Golden Book' and 'Super Star', 'Positive Play' and attendance treats. Your child will be in either Sapphire (Blue), Topaz (Yellow), Emerald (Green) or Ruby (Red) and will be able to earn house points. Certificates will be given for house points. Great effort, good home learning effort, completing reading challenges, extra work at home, as well as regular reading will help your child to earn lots of house points throughout the year.

Finally.....

The Year 2 team are really looking forward to this year. Remember, if you have any concern, ring the Office and we will get back to you. The most successful educational year is built on one which shows a close relationship between school and home. Our priority is your child. It is vital that they are happy in order to flourish and develop to their full potential, ready for the next stage of their education and life.

Mrs Lopez and Mrs Strange

Class Teachers