



# Polar Bear



## Newsletter 2021-2022

Welcome to Year 2! We hope you enjoy your time in Polar Bear Class.

### The adults working with you this year

**Class Teachers:** Miss Sztypuljak and Mrs Boyd

**LSAs:** Miss Bacon (am) and Miss Moore (pm)

**PE:** Mr Goldsmith (Sports Coach)

**Jigsaw (PSHE):** Mrs Lennon

### Things to remember

In Y2 children are encouraged to further develop their independence (in their learning as well as in their personal life) to ensure that they are ready to move up through the school. Please help your child to do things independently, such as get themselves ready for school, carry their own bags, and remember their reading books, water bottles, PE kits and jumpers/coats.

**Daily:** Bring in your school bag (blue book bag **or** rucksack), reading book, reading record, spellings book and named water bottle. If you take part in RWI lessons, please bring in your RWI Book Bag book and your blue RWI book.

**Monday:** Bring in PE kit. PE will be all afternoon on a Monday with Mr Goldsmith, but please have your PE kit in school all week in case it is needed at other times.

**Friday:** Take home PE kit.

Please can you also bring in an old shirt (named) to use as an Art shirt.



### Homework



Homework is given out in the Homework Diaries for each half term. Please see your Homework Diary for more information. You are expected to read your reading book, or any other book, as often as you can (preferably every day if possible!).



### Spellings



You will have a spellings book with your own spellings in. We will have a spelling lesson every day, and you will have new words to learn or a spelling pattern to investigate (sometimes these will be common exception words or topic words and sometimes they will follow a specific spelling pattern that we are focusing on in our spelling lessons). These will be assessed or form part of a discussion. We will be practising these every day in class but you also need to practise as much as possible at home (e.g. 5 minutes every day at home or while travelling to and from school). Please keep your Spellings Book in your bag so you can use it at home and in school.



## Reading



You are encouraged to **independently** change your reading book on a regular basis (if you take part in RWI you will change it on Mondays and Thursdays). Reading comprehension is a big focus. When you are reading your book, make sure that you talk about what is happening, who the characters are, how they are feeling, what information the text is telling you, what type of book it is and so on. Please ensure that your reading record is signed. It is also really important and fun to listen to stories read to you by other people!



## Rewards, sanctions and Golden Worship



We have worked together to draw up class rules with rewards and sanctions. As before, your parents or other members of the family are very welcome to join us for our weekly whole school Golden Worship on Friday mornings at 8.35am, during which we celebrate achievements and progress in and out of school.



## Topics



We will have different topics each half term. A Topic Web will be sent out at the beginning of every half term that explains what we will be learning and the subjects that will be focused on.



## Information for parents: Year 2 tests and Phonics Screening



In Year 2 we will be taking part in the National Curriculum tests (known as SATs), alongside the usual ongoing teacher assessments. These will take place in May, and your child will be assessed in reading and maths. This is nothing to worry about and we don't make 'a big deal of it' as we don't want to cause the children any undue pressure or stress. They take the form of 'quizzes' to make it a fun and enjoyable process. However, we will be working hard all year to ensure that the children have the best possible chance of meeting the end of year expectations. If you have any questions about the tests, please don't hesitate to ask. Further information will follow nearer the time.

Your child will undertake the phonics screening check during the second half of the autumn term. It is statutory for all schools to undertake this check and is nothing to be concerned about. Your child will be familiar with the style of words used in the check from Reception and Year 1. We will continue to use and refer to them during Read Write Inc. lessons, No Nonsense Spellings and English lessons.



## Attendance



At Brighstone we expect all children to have a minimum attendance of 96.5% and to start the school day punctually. This is key to ensure that you don't miss any important schooling – lessons start as soon as school starts at 8.25am! If by any chance you are late, please go to the main school office where they will be registered. Many thanks.



## Parents' Evenings



Information about parents' evenings will follow in due course.

**If you have some time to spare and would like to come in to hear children read, then please let me know. We would greatly appreciate it – this makes a huge contribution to the children's progress.**

**Thank you!**

## What to expect in Year 2

(from the Oxford Owl website)



Welcome to Year 2! Your child has now entered an important stage of their primary school experience: this is the year of the Key Stage 1 (KS1) end of year attainment tests known as SATS which mark the end of their KS1 journey. For many parents, this can feel like an emotional time, as their child prepares for their first formal testing and reaches the end of their stage as an infant. While you do need to be mindful of the end goal for this year, it is also important to see it for the wonderful year that it is.

The final year of KS1 will see your child being encouraged to work more independently. At this age, most children will have improved their ability to coordinate movement and their language/speech will be increasingly complex and grammatically correct, so it's an exciting year for children, parents and teachers. This guide will help you to understand what your child will be learning and suggest helpful ways in which you can support them at home.

## What will my child do in Year 2?

### Developing literacy skills

In English, the children will continue to work on the phonics they have learned in Year 1, aiming to read words by sight without having to sound them out individually. They will learn further spelling patterns and rules, and begin to apply those in their writing. They will look at the possessive apostrophe, homophones and near homophones and suffixes.

There will be a more detailed focus on handwriting, with children encouraged to form their letters correctly, learn which letters are to be joined and make letters a consistent size. Children will learn to write for a range of purposes including stories, poetry and real events.

### Grammar

Grammar is a hot topic in Year 2! Children this age are expected to understand the following terms, to be able to spot them in their reading and apply them in their writing:

Noun, adjective, adverb, suffix, subordination, noun phrase, past tense, present tense, statement, question, exclamation, command, capital letter, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark, compound sentence and expanded noun phrase.

### Maths

Mathematics in Year 2 focuses on the 2, 5 and 10 times-tables. Children in Year 2 will learn to add and subtract with two-digit and one-digit numbers. They will learn multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times-tables. In fractions, they will find  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a shape or a quantity of objects. They will study measures, including weight, capacity and length, and they will learn to tell the time to five minutes. They will also study properties of 2D and 3D shapes, as well as a range of data-handling methods such as bar charts and pictograms. By the end of Year 2, pupils will be expected to know the number bonds to 20 and be precise in using and understanding place value. The new curriculum 'mastery' style of teaching concentrates on breadth of knowledge and children will be encouraged to use their understanding of the new concepts to solve challenges to deepen their understanding.

### Science

Science in Year 2 is engaging and fun. Expect your child to learn about living things and their habitats, plants, animals (including humans) and uses of everyday materials. They will also learn how to work scientifically, how to observe closely, and how to record their observations.

## What do the KS1 SATs entail?

At the end of Year 2, all pupils will take [SATs](#) in reading and maths.

The reading test is made up of two papers, each worth 50% of the marks. They are designed to take roughly 30 minutes, although the children won't be strictly timed. Maths is also split into two papers. The first is arithmetic where the basic understanding of place value and number is tested. The second is reasoning, where your child will need to apply their problem solving and reasoning skills to show their understanding.

The chances are that your child will be completely oblivious to the SATs process. Some schools prepare for the tests without ever using the word 'test' or 'exam', and most will try and keep it light. Your child's school is likely to hold information evenings nearer the time, so look out for these as a chance to ask any questions you may have.

## How can I help my child in Year 2?

### Help them understand what they read

As reading comprehension is so important this year, checking your child's understanding of the book they are reading is an excellent way to support them. Asking questions about the plot such as: *'What might happen next? Why do you think the boy is feeling sad? What sort of mood is being created?'* will help them to engage with their reading on a deeper level.

You can also do this when you are reading to them, which is still so important at this age. Children learn a lot from the way we read aloud and we can encourage them to see how the author's use of punctuation changes the way we read their work. Think about pointing out statements, commands, questions or exclamations when reading with your child. You might want to use a range of voices to show how types of sentences and punctuation can be read in different ways.

### Mix it up

Giving your child access to a variety of writing styles — including a range of fiction and non-fiction books — will expand their vocabulary and knowledge as well as develop their reading fluency.

### Real-life maths

Any opportunity to use maths in a real-life context is really useful. For example, ask them to help you pay for goods or calculate change when shopping. This will help to develop their reasoning and problem solving skills. Learning to tell the time, especially to five minutes, is another great way to support your child's learning at home; this also links neatly to their counting in 5s in the 5 times-table.

Perhaps most importantly for maths, you can help your child at home by practising their times tables (2, 5 and 10) regularly. There are many different ways you can do this, but it is beneficial if your child can use and apply this knowledge — for example, not just knowing that  $10 \times 2$  is 20, but also realising that 20 divided by 2 is 10. You could use journey time to school to give your child fun times table challenges. You can also make up word problems relating times-tables facts to real life.

### Encouraging independence

Finally, you can develop their independence at home by encouraging your child to get dressed on their own or organise their belongings more independently. This will help enormously as they move up through the school!

## Useful resources on the Oxford Owl website

- [Key Stage 1 SATs](#)
- How [grammar](#) is taught at school
- Practise reading with our [free eBooks](#)
- Make learning [times tables](#) fun