Dear Parents,

It has been lovely meeting my new Year 1 class and seeing the boys and girls from last year who have now become Year 2. I am looking forward to a busy and productive year ahead!! I just want to use this opportunity to update you on some information regarding our classroom routines and homework.

**Guided Reading** sessions will commence soon. This week we will spend time going over previously learned key words and when your child is ready we will start guided reading at home again. Reading sessions will take place within a rota system in class. Some reading groups will participate on a daily basis and other reading groups will be seen twice a week either on a Monday and Wednesday or a Tuesday and Thursday. Please note the importance of reading the book again at home which has been started in class. Your child will have a reading record book which will state what their reading book is. There is space in this book to add any comments if you wish. Please sign the reading record book when reading is completed. To check your child’s comprehension please ask questions related to the story e.g. what happened? Can they retell the main events in sequence? Discuss the characters – what they did, how did they feel. Relate reading to child’s own experiences. Talk about their favourite/ least favourite part/ characters and give reasons to support their views.

Sometimes your child will also be given an unseen ‘take home’ book (reading for enjoyment book). Encourage your child to use strategies to work out unknown words e.g. use sounds, look at the pictures, read on and then go back to try to see if they can work out the word that might ‘fit’, notice when reading does not make sense and go back and try again. Sometimes children will be asked to discuss their take home book in class.

**My Homework Learning Book**

This book is used for the reinforcement of learning at home.

It will include:

* learning of key words (please go over key words every night, this will help your child to progress in their reading abilities and further develop their fluency)
* Important Literacy skills/ learning
* Important Numeracy/ Mental Maths skills
* It can also include any work that we have noticed that your child needs further reinforcement of at home e.g. formation of letters, learning letter names, number facts etc.

**Homework** will be given out every day; usually consisting of a Literacy/ Spelling homework on a Tuesday and Thursday night and a Numeracy homework on a Monday and Wednesday night. Sometimes this will vary and there could be a topic or PATHS homework instead. Homeworks will begin from this week. Homeworks are a reinforcement of learning that has been taught in school. Hopefully homeworks will be completed within a time space which is appropriate for your child. If you feel your child is taking too long or having any difficulties please do not hesitate to contact me on any matter. Please return homeworks every day. Children are encouraged to put their homework into a tray as soon as they come in each morning.

**Spellings** will begin after Halloween and more guidance will be provided then.

**It would be a great help if you could make sure that all homework books are brought into school every day.**

**Library books** – your child will have the opportunity to visit the library every week and choose books to take home with them. Year 2 library day at the minute will be Tuesdays or Wednesdays (if there is any change to this we will let you know). Please make sure that books are in bags every Tuesday to be returned and changed.

**P.E.** – we will be having P.E. on a Thursday morning in school. Every Thursday your child can come to school in their P.E. kit. We will change back into uniforms after having P.E. It is important to put your child’s school uniform in their bag for them to change back into and please make sure all clothing is named.

I know that home times can be busy and it can be hard to get to talk to me but if there is ever anything you wish to talk about don’t hesitate to speak to me or arrange an appointment if needed.

Many thanks, your help and support is greatly appreciated.

Mrs Debby McGerrigle

Mrs Wallace