

Dear Parents,

I hope that you all managed to have a good summer. It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school: I was very much looking forward to seeing them all, finding out what they have been up to and to getting to know them better. This year we welcome Mrs Maker to Year 2; she will be working as an additional teaching assistant in the class- I am sure that the children will love working with her. I will be teaching the class every day apart from Tuesdays which will be my assistant headteacher release time or my PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time; therefore, on Tuesdays the class will be covered by Mrs Oliver.

Our cross curricular theme this term is '**Where We Live**', as detailed on the curriculum poster attached. We will revisit our big question; '**What does it mean to belong to a diverse community?**' throughout our learning. We will be exploring both the geography and history of our local area and thinking about its location within the Southwest and United Kingdom. We plan to take the children on trips within the local area to enhance their learning. We will teach the children how to use simple maps and plans and see things from a 'bird's eye view'. We also want to develop the children's sense of community and help them find ways to be good citizens and to appreciate the diversity within Plymouth. If you know of anyone who has a job or hobby linked to our topic and might be willing to offer something to our curriculum, then please let us know.

To enhance the children's learning, I have arranged for them to visit Smeaton's tower when we walk around our local area. This will take place on Wednesday 18th September and will cost £2.25 per child. More details will follow shortly.

Routines

- The classroom is open from 08.40 a.m. and children are registered at 8.45 a.m. Children will be engaged in learning tasks as soon as they arrive. Please try and arrive promptly each day to make the most of this learning opportunity.
- P.E days are Mondays and Thursdays. Please ensure that PE kit is in school on these days.
- Reading books: we will change books once a week and send home enough books for a week's worth of reading. In Year 2 we encourage children to self-select their books from a range in their book-band level. We change books on Thursdays but it is helpful if children bring their books to school with them every day so that we can read with the children when possible. Please try to read a little every night; the

children will make much more progress with their reading this way rather than completing their reading books in one go.

- Homework will consist of reading, spellings and learning number facts. This will come home on a Friday and is due on the following Wednesday. I will also be sending home children's logins for Mathletics and Spelling Shed. Both are great resources to support your child's learning and allow me to monitor your child's progress as they work. The 1st set of reading books and homework will come home at the end of next week.
- Please ensure that your child brings a named water-bottle containing water only with them every day.
- Please **label** all jumpers, coats, book bags, trainers etc. We can't help to locate missing items unless they are named.

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead. I will regularly update our class page on the school website with what the children have been up to. A number of children do not have permission for their photograph to appear on the school website; if you would like to change this then please let myself and the school office know.

Finally, here are some events and dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 18th September: Walk around the local area and visit to Smeaton's tower
- Wednesday 9th October: Harvest festival
- Wednesday 27th November: Year 2 class assembly at 9.10 am

Finally, if you have any questions please feel free to ask at the door or to contact me by email s.field@staps.org.uk

With very best wishes,

Miss Field, Miss Haywood and Mrs Maker