

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school, we've had a great week getting to know your children and have been so proud of how quickly they have settled in to Year 2. We've got a lot to look forward to over the year ahead.

We would like to explain a few things at the start of the year, to clarify any queries you might have as the term begins.

#### Reading books:

The children will receive three reading books on a Monday to be read throughout the week. The reading record books will be sent home at the end of each day, please sign each time your child has read and feel free to write a comment where you feel appropriate. Although all reading books will be sent home on Monday, please try to spread these over the week rather than reading them all in one night. Children will receive a comprehension task as part of their homework

It is really important that the children can read their home text with fluency, expression and understanding, so they may need to re-read the text more than once while these skills develop over the year. Please discuss their reading; characters, motives, vocabulary etc each time you read with them. Children will need to have their reading record in school everyday as they will be read with regularly and records will be signed by staff. If any parent is available to change books each Monday please talk to the class teacher, this would be greatly appreciated.

#### Spellings:

Spellings will be tested on a Wednesday morning. We ask that the children practise these, then cut off and send back to school their written sentences on the sheet provided by Tuesday the following week. The sentences should be written in their 'best' neat joined writing, using a sharp pencil rather than pen. Please keep the top part of the sheet for continued practice before the test and for revision afterwards.

#### Maths:

Maths homework will be set on a Friday and should be returned to school by the following Tuesday. Again, this should be done in pencil. We will also begin a weekly mental maths test beginning with number facts to 10 and moving on to their times table facts 2x, 10x, 5x, and beyond over the course of the year. Your child should be able to tell you which tables we are practising. They should aim to learn the related division facts; if they know  $4 \times 5 = 20$  they know  $20 \div 5 = 4$  and so on. We will have regular times tables test and would recommend that online game 'Hit the Button' to work on at home.

#### Things to remember:

Please ensure all items are clearly named and checked regularly. We always endeavour to return items to their rightful owners, although this becomes very difficult with unnamed items, particularly in the winter months with hats and gloves. We also ask that the children do not bring in items to school for 'showing'. Children with pierced ears must remove their earrings before school each day rather than cover them with plasters please.

If you wish to discuss anything with the class teacher please make a note in the reading record and we will respond when possible.

Year 2 is an important year for your child as 'top infants' and we are looking forward to working in partnership with you to support them together.

Amy and Megan ☺

We will continue with the wellbeing challenge

## Five Ways to Wellbeing

At St Anthony's we recognise the vital importance of positive mental health and wellbeing in our school community. In order to support our children, parents and staff, we are promoting 'Five ways to Wellbeing' in our classrooms and would invite you to support this at home.

### What are the Five Ways to Wellbeing?

**Connect:** Talk and listen with others and with God. Set aside special times to connect with friends and family, and to connect in faith through prayer.

**Take notice:** Remember the simple things which give you joy. Feel the awe and wonder of nature. Notice your thoughts and feelings, your breath, the positives in life. Be still.

**Give:** Give your time, your presence and your words to others. Consider how you can help. Be kind.

**Be active:** Do what you can. Enjoy what you do. Take in fresh air and discover a physical activity that suits your lifestyle.

**Keep learning:** Try something new. Re-discover old interests. Take on new responsibilities. Learn from others. Share your knowledge.

