



ST. LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD CATHOLIC NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
 LICKERS LANE  
 WHISTON  
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Dear Parents/Carers

My name is Mrs McGuinness, and I'm your child's class teacher and Mrs Lewin is the Year 2's Teaching Assistant. I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday. I am really excited that I will be teaching your child this year. Year 2 is an exciting year in which your child will make lots of happy memories and learn new skills in all areas. The Year Two web page on the school website will be used to give you information and to share photographs and celebrate the children's work. This year there are lots of exciting theme weeks planned and learning activities information about each of these weeks will be on our website. Look out for important dates and information in newsletters and on the website.

This letter is to provide you with information about the coming school year and to give you an idea about the forthcoming lessons and topics.

**Attendance**

As part of our 'Enjoy and Achieve' we celebrate attendance with rewards and prizes weekly in class and in assembly every Monday. Attendance is celebrated each week on the school website. I would love Year Two to be the best attending class in school and I'm sure this is something we can achieve. If your child feels a little unwell in the morning, please still bring your child to school and if we need to phone you as they become to unwell to stay with us we will do so straight away.

It is so important that your child attends school every day but sadly there are times when they are sick and unable to come in. If your child is sick you must phone school that day between 8.30am and 9.30am. If we have not received a call by 9.30am a member of staff will give you a courtesy call. When your child is well enough to return to school please write a letter upon your child's return explaining the reasons for absence. This is in line with the attendance and inclusion service of Knowsley Local Authority.

We strive at St. Leo's and Southmead for every child to be happy and that their voice is heard. Help and support is available within school if you feel there are any difficulties in your child attending regularly.

### **Punctuality**

Please make sure that your child arrives and comes straight into class by 8.55am. The children in Year Two can enter the classroom from 8.45am. Learning starts each day the minute your child sets foot into the classroom. Sadly children can become upset if they arrive late and are unsure what they are to do. Arriving each day on time is an important life skill which can help with both your child's progress and self confidence.

### **Dates for your Diary**

Dates for the coming school years Theme Weeks, World Book Day and dressing up days are provided every year in September, in Newsletters, Welcome Letters and on the school website. Please make a note in your diary, as plenty of notice is provided for your child to take part in these days without the last minute rush or stress of finding a costume.

### **Water**

It has been scientifically proven that children that have constant access to plain still water improve their learning in class each day. Please can I ask you to provide your child with a water bottle with their full name written on. Please do not send in juice or flavoured water as it ruins tables, Carpets, floors and children's books. If your child's water becomes warm we will empty the bottles and refill them with cold water. The children will be encouraged to drink water throughout each day in class. Each night the children will bring their bottle home to be refilled with fresh plain water ready for the next day.

### **Toast**

The children in Year Two can buy toast each day in class. In Year Two we encourage the children to buy their toast each day. Toast costs 10p for one slice or 20p for two slices. Please can the children bring their toast money into class in an envelope or a money bag. This will stop money being lost on the way to school. If you would prefer to provide your child with a healthy snack each day this might be a piece of fruit or a small biscuit. Each day the children will have milk and fruit in class.

### **Money and messages**

Please ensure that all money is put in envelopes marked with your child's name and what the money is for. Please do not hand me money at the door as it can be confusing who has given me what and what for. Can I also ask you to write any messages in a letter as verbal messages can often be forgotten and are not always suitable for the other children to hear.

### **Book Club**

Mrs Parry will be continuing Book Club on Tuesdays. This is a great opportunity for your children to become interested in books and life long readers!!! Each child has a savings card and can bring money each week to save for a book or buy a new book.

### **Assessment and Tests**

Year Two and Year Six are the two Year groups in which Children in Primary Schools throughout England complete SATS tests and assessments produced by the Government. Please do not worry about these tests. The children do not know they are tested as in Year Two the work the children do each week is used alongside tests and assessment activities, to determine the stage in which your child is working at.

This is an important year for your child and I would like to invite you to an informal meeting in the school hall to explain the changes to the SATs for Year Two and hopefully remove any worries you may have about SATs. During the meeting and throughout the year I will explain lots of ways in which you can help your child, ideas and suggestions and resources will be given throughout the year. This meeting will take place on

### Year Two SATs information meeting with parents

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 in the school hall

Please do not worry about SATs in Year Two they are used as a way in which to show how your child is making progress in school. A copy of your child's results will be sent to you with your child's school report in July. If at any time you feel you would like to know more about SATs or your child's progress please come and arrange a time in which we can meet. Assessment activities will be carried out throughout the school year, therefore attendance has an impact.

### Reading and Writing

Both Reading and Writing are important life skills. Reading and Writing skills are developed daily throughout the curriculum in Year Two. Throughout the year your child will be invited to take part in a variety of fun and exciting reading challenges all of which are planned to develop your child's reading ability. Each child will be invited to change their reading book three times a week. Reading Books can be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There are times when your child may choose a book or I may choose a book they have previously read. Should this happen this is a wonderful chance to celebrate with your child the progress they have made since they last read the book. In Year Two we use a range of books from a wide range of authors and schemes to ensure the children have opportunity to read books which help them to practise important reading skills outlined for Year Two.

I would like to invite you to an opportunity to come into class and take part in a variety of exciting reading activities with your child.

Reading for pleasure with parents On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 8.45-9.15

Throughout the year the children will take part in many exciting themed activities from pirates to space all of which are planned to make writing for different reasons fun and exciting. Ideas and suggestions will be given throughout the year of ways in which you can help your child develop their writing skills.

### Maths

Maths forms a life skill used daily. In Year Two the children will learn their two, three, five, ten and four times tables. The children will use games and puzzles to practise their tables. Your child will have a times table challenges each day. If possible please use the times table chart attached to help your child learn their tables.

### Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform. This includes plain black shoes. It is really important your child has their name in everything including their coat. This is a huge help when uniform is taken off for P.E. Their school uniform is a reflection on the class, especially when we are out of school or when we have visitors into the classroom.

## P.E.

P.E. is a compulsory lesson just like English and Maths, that your child must take part in. Your child's P.E. lessons are on a Friday. Please make sure your child has a full PE kit (plain shorts, T-shirt and pumps – **with their name on everything**) PE kits can be kept in school every day and sent home at half terms to be washed.

## Spellings

Your child will be sent home every half term with a list of spellings a copy of the spellings is also on the website. Your child will have a spelling test every Friday, but this is not something your child needs to worry about. Each week the children will practise their spellings throughout the week in class. If possible please help your child practise their spellings each week.

## Class Curriculum Map

A copy of the Year Two curriculum map is attached and has been added onto the Year Two page on the schools website. This shows you the topics that your child will be learning about throughout the year and helpful hints of ways you can help your child at home.

## Homework

We offer your child homework to practise their skills and use their learning at home. This is in preparation for the homework they will do in the Juniors. Homework can be a fantastic way in which you can support your child with their learning and celebrate their progress in this important next year of their education. Therefore as a school we think homework can be really valuable. Homework is given out each week on a Friday and can I ask that it be returned by Wednesday of the following week so it can be marked and discussed with your child before the Friday. In addition each week the children will take part in a weekly spelling test on a Friday. Please help your child learn their weekly spellings.

I'm really looking forward to teaching your child this year and working together with you to create lots of happy memories.

Thank you

Mrs McGuinness