Charlton Kings Infants' School

'The wings to fly, the confidence to try'

Lyefield Road East, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 8AY

Telephone: (01242) 514483
Email: secretary@ckis.org.uk

Head teacher: Katie James BA (Hons) QTS

Welcome to Year 2!

We are looking forward to a fun-filled year in Y2. During their final year in our school, the children will work with increasing independence. We know that we will see them develop as confident, independent and resilient learners as they make their way through this pivotal year.

Our main theme in the Autumn term will be, *"What can you see in the dark?"* We will follow the children's interests and are excited to work with the children to see which direction our big question will lead us. We will begin by learning about The Great Fire of London but then may move on to dragons or castles depending on the children's ideas and motivations.

Phonics is a key part of our teaching and learning at CKIS. It is imperative that our children experience success in this area of their learning in order to fully access reading, writing and all subjects throughout the curriculum. Phonics will continue to be taught through whole class sessions and reinforced through daily learning across all subjects. The children will bring their phonics work home to share with you on a daily basis and we will provide weekly online activities to support their learning.

Reading is at the centre of all we do in our school, and we therefore place high priority on reading throughout our curriculum and daily learning opportunities. Our school day starts with ERIC (Everyone reading in class) time, where we all read books together and it ends with a whole class story time. We use exciting texts to inspire our writing, and to conduct independent research across all subjects. As a continuation from Year 1, we to ask that **all children read daily** at home. This is essential in developing children's vocabulary and fluency. Evidence demonstrates that children who acquire rich vocabulary through listening to, responding to and reading stories, develop life-long communication skills. It is therefore vital that children not only read the books provided by school but, listen and respond to texts read to them by adults on a regular basis both at home and at school. It is important to encourage children to read a wide variety of different texts including non-fiction and poetry.

Maths will continue to be taught in whole class sessions where all children will work towards the same learning objective. They will then be securing and deepening this understanding through learning activities known as 'do it, secure it and deepen it' The children always enjoy this practical approach to their mathematic learning. In addition, children have opportunities to develop mathematical fluency through daily 'Magic maths' sessions.

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In the Autumn term, our Year 2 timetable is designed to support transition from Year 1 to Year 2. The focus is on a carefully considered balance between short, whole class taught sessions (phonics and maths), small group work (reading and writing) and foundation subjects (Challenge Time) which sees teachers scaffolding learning through the provision of high quality learning environments and teaching. This also allows children to apply their developing knowledge, skills and understanding. When the children are ready (the timing of this is flexible), we move towards more whole class taught sessions in the morning whilst continuing our 'Challenge Time' approach in the afternoons, encouraging independence and ownership of learning. Our subject 'Learning Leaves' documenting the key knowledge, skills and understanding that children will learn within each subject are available on the school website **here** if you would like to find out more about what we are learning in each subject each term.

Home learning

We thank you for your commitment to work in partnership with us at school to support your child's ongoing learning and development. Listed below are the ways we will be asking you to support your child's learning at home:

- **Daily reading:** This is essential in developing children's oracy skills, vocabulary and fluency. The class teacher supervises the school reading books taken home, but the children will take responsibility for choosing their own books from a given range. Please remember to record all reading in their reading diaries to celebrate their progress. Children should also have **daily** opportunities to listen to stories read by family members that are beyond their individual reading ability. Our 'Dream Reads' are perfect for this as well any books from the library or your own bookshelves. We will continue to celebrate our weekly reading champion (those children who have read regularly at home each week and are making accelerated progress) in each class with Mrs James during our Friday family assembly.
- **Phonics revision**: The children will have their phonics work in their book bags which will be added to each week in school. Please ensure that you re-cap the new learning with your child on a weekly basis to secure their understanding and use in both their reading and writing.
- **Spellings:** The children will be given a list of words to learn to spell each term. For the children to spell these words consistently and independently, they need to practice and repeat them regularly to apply them in their own writing. You will receive more information about this in September.
- **Maths:**

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- Your child will have continued access to 'Numbots' for daily maths practise and we also recommend the 1 Minute Maths app for practising basic number facts.

Equipment in school

Our storage space is limited in Year 2, and we therefore ask you to only bring a **named** book bag into school (please do not attach key rings or toys to book bags as they do not fit into our storage drawers/boxes with these attached), rather than large backpacks. Children must have a **named** PE kit in school at all times, to include Velcro trainers, black or grey tracksuit bottoms/leggings/shorts, a yellow t-shirt, a plain grey/black sweatshirt and white socks. Please also ensure that children have a **named** waterproof coat and a **named** water bottle in school at all times and continue to bring in a daily fruit or vegetable snack in a named, reusable container.

We will also be taking part in activities in our forest school area throughout terms 1, 3 and 5 on either a Wednesday, Thursday or Friday afternoon so please keep an eye out for messages on 'Seesaw' for when your child will need to bring in a pair of named wellies and suitable clothing.

Communication

- Seesaw is our main form of communication with families, please look out for messages and updates through your app.
- There will be a termly topic letter, containing key information about teaching and learning, sent to all families at the beginning of each term. These will also be available on the Year 2 page of the school website.
- Please ensure contact details are up to date at the school office, in order to ensure you receive all emails and text messages.
- If you need to contact your child's class teacher, please message them directly through Seesaw.

Attendance

School will begin at **8.50 am** each morning from September. Children should be dropped off at the **blue gate** at the **FRONT** of the school between **8.40am and 8.50am (members of the team will always be at the gate)** where they can make their way to their classrooms to begin their learning. Learning begins immediately, so it is essential that children arrive at school punctually. At the end of the day the children will need to be collected from the FRONT of the school at 3.20pm. Magenta and Indigo class children will come out of the blue gate and Violet out of the Y2 door at the far end of the building (Don't worry you will find us!)

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We are so looking forward to welcoming you into Year 2 to continue your learning journey with us here at CKIS.

The Y2 Team
Mrs Koller and Mr Owens (Indigo Class), Mrs Mansfield (Magenta Class) and
Mrs Hunt and Mrs Price (Violet Class)