



September 2011

Dear Parents

We would like to heartily welcome you to the new school year. We hope you all had a very enjoyable holiday. We are certainly looking forward to a very exciting year ahead. We would like to give you an insight into some of our expectations and activities during the Michaelmas Term.

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Sami Morgan Shorbagy and Anton Jung to Arnold Lodge School. It is a pleasure to have them both join the class and they have settled into 2R excellently.

The children will be issued with a School Homework Diary. This will inform you of the work that the children will carry out in their own time after school. Reading will be expected of them on a daily basis, although reading will not be sent home on a Wednesday evening. We would be most grateful if you could support them with this task and sign the Reading Diary to indicate the number of pages read. It does not have to be a lot. The children may be quizzed by you about the odd spelling, adventurous word or be questioned about the characters /story setting and events taking place. We also hope that the children will enjoy reading and or sharing their own chosen books at home.

Spelling lists will be given on a Monday as well as three homework tasks – usually on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays although this may vary. Homework will come in the form of workbooks on a Monday and Wednesday and a worksheet on Friday. If homework cannot be completed for a certain reason then it may be given in later. No more than half an hour should be spent on the homework.

In number it would be helpful if parents could reinforce a knowledge of number facts within 10 and, if achieved, within 20, help the children to count on and back in 2s, 5s, and 10s to and from 100 and present the children with occasional simple number problems to solve. Try to use varying mathematical vocabulary if possible. An example of this could be saying find the difference between two given numbers, what is 6 fewer than 10? This of course should not be laboured – all in fun only!

We have a reward system in place. This takes the form of stars/stickers being given for any achievement, may it be academic, sport, good manners, concentration, effort, helpfulness, cleanliness and so forth. Also each week one child is selected to receive a silver cup which may be kept at home for one week. It should be returned to school on the following Friday for the next recipient. This is hopefully a way of promoting good work ethics.

During the term we will be visiting various places of interest such as Coventry Cathedral and the Birmingham Think Tank. The visits and activities will support their learning and offer them first hand experience of life in the past. We will be learning about World War 2 and Worship in Special Places. We will also be looking at The Gunpowder plot. In Science our work is about Materials. If you have any resources which might support our work related to the topics we would be most grateful to receive them. They would certainly be valued.

There will be a slight change to the format of the trip letters in year 2 this year. We shall be sending out a letter during the next few weeks asking for your permission for the three trips that we will be making this term. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to ask.

The children will continue to pursue activities in the gym and the games field for which they will need their games kit. Please could you ensure that all clothing is clearly named – even socks and vests! It would be helpful to sew names on the front of PE shirts and shorts. It has sometimes been tricky to find names hidden in the pockets of clothing. We would also like the children to have their own set of **2H** writing pencils, pencil crayons, felt tips, rubbers and sharpeners. School will supply these too but this equipment always seems to be ‘devoured’ so it is useful to have extra, especially if children sometimes want to draw or write in the playground during playtimes!

General information

Library

The children will occasionally visit the school library. A day has yet to be arranged.

P.E

The children need to bring kit for gym and games.

Swimming kit will be needed every Thursday.

The girls should wear a swimming cap. Boys may also wear one if wished.

Music will take place on Tuesday, PE on Wednesday, French and Games afternoon on Friday.

Spellings

Spellings go home to learn on a Monday and tested on the following Monday. Test books will go home to be viewed but must be returned to school by Wednesday.

Snack

The children may bring a plain biscuit/cheese or fresh fruit to eat during the first break.

They may also bring in fresh fruit on a Friday to share with their year group.

Please also refer to the school calendar for important dates and do not hesitate to ask if queries arise. Please note any queries that you may have into your child’s school homework diary or into their reading diary so that we can respond to or organise a meeting to discuss questions that you may have.

The meeting point for children and parents at the end of the school day will be outside in the Junior playground. During inclement weather in the morning parents may like to take their children to the Main Hall.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Robson
Class Teacher

Jill Lawson
Teaching Assistant