



# Widmer End Community Combined School and Pre-School

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## Year 2 Class Newsletter

6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to a new academic year! I trust that you had a restful summer break and are energised for the year ahead. In this edition of our class newsletter, I aim to provide you with key information regarding our classroom routines and general updates for the upcoming term. This year, our Year 2 class is fortunate to be supported by Mrs Swanson, who will be present throughout the week. However, I will not be in class on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. During these times, teaching responsibilities will be assumed by Mrs Bejan, with the support of Mrs Swanson.

To gain insights into the topics and learning focus for the Autumn Term, please refer to the school website for our comprehensive curriculum map.

At the beginning of term, we will dedicate time to ensuring the smooth transition and settling in of the children. Research shows that happy and settled children are more likely to excel academically, which is why establishing a positive classroom environment is of utmost importance.

### **Year 2 Curriculum:**

- Read Write Inc (RWI) / English
- Mathematics
- Wider curriculum – this incorporates Science, History, Geography, Art and Design Technology (DT) and is covered through termly topics.
- Religious Education (RE), Music and Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Values, Mindfulness, Growth Mindset and Nurture

**Bookbags:** Year 2 children should utilise the official school book bag bearing the Widmer End logo. Please ensure these are neatly maintained and clearly labelled with your child's name. Book bags should be brought to school daily, and children are responsible for handing in any forms or notices using the designated DropBox. Please note that not more than one keyring/toy figure is allowed on book bags.

**Equipment:** a simple, flat and clear (transparent) pencil case; two HB pencils; 30 cm rigid plastic ruler; Pritt glue stick; small pair of scissors (kid-safe); 2 black dry-wipe pens; whiteboard rubber or a small microfiber cloth; colouring pencils; art overall or old shirt, a highlighter pen and a zip lock or popper wallet. All named. The children do **not** need a rubber or a pencil sharpener.

Restock opportunities are available through the school stationery shop at reasonable prices.



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Pencil cases will be sent home every Friday. Please support your child to check that their pencil case is fully equipped with sharpened pencils! This will ensure they are readily equipped for their learning in the week ahead and it ensures that our learning time together is used productively.

**Michiko the Monkey:** We have a special pet in our class called Michiko. He will go home weekly with one child and bring with him a bag full of goodies for his stay. Please look after these items and Michiko and return them to school on Fridays (ready for the next child to borrow). Please just enjoy his company! I am not expecting any feedback unless you want to.

**PE:** Our PE days are timetabled on Tuesday and Friday. Please ensure your child wears the correct PE kit and that earrings are removed on PE days or taped with medical tape (micropore tape). Your child should be shown at home how to do this themselves if you opt not to send them in with it already been done.

**Reading:** Children will be allocated school reading books once we've had our Meet the Teacher meeting. Until then please read from your library. You must read with your child as often as possible, ideally every night, but at least 3 times a week. Parental involvement does make a difference and you can also support your child by developing their comprehension skills - asking lots of questions and discussing the characters and setting. Please do not feel limited to solely reading the books sent home from school, please include any other reading your child achieves in addition to the school provision. When books have been allocated, also sign and date the reading record each time – stating which pages you have read together. You do **not** necessarily have to write **comments** on all occasions. Reading books will be collected on a Monday and new ones allocated/sent home on a Monday or sometimes a Tuesday, depending on the support I have to make that happen.

**Water bottles/fruit snacks:** All children need to bring a named water bottle in every day, even on cooler days. The school water bottle is perfect for this. Please wash and refill the bottles with **plain** water each day. The school provides all KS1 children with a morning fruit snack, but children are allowed to bring in their own if preferred. (Flavoured water or juice and yoghurt-covered snacks are **not** allowed.)

**Hand hygiene:** Children will be expected to maintain a high level of handwashing and cleanliness throughout each day in class.

## **Helping at home:**

- Please read with your child at least 3 times per week.
- Rehearse Spelling words. The first spelling check in class will be on Friday 15/09/2023. Allow your child access to Spelling Shed as often as possible.
- Complete additional work that I might send home in their Home Learning books.



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## Class Dojo

I will be using Class Dojo this year as a form of communication to you and for observations throughout the school year. Please ensure your account is activated and that you check the account regularly. This will allow you to access any important information I post there, and let us know if you have any problems with this.

## Dates for your diary:

Term dates: Thursday 5th September 2024 – Wednesday 23rd October 2024

*(Half term 24th October – 1st November)*

Monday 4th November 2024 – Friday 20th December 2024

Meet the teacher meeting is scheduled for 14:30 on 10th September 2024.

## General

- Please keep us up to date with any medical issues / needs your child may have.
- Shoulder length and longer hair **must** be tied up. Hairbands must be blue or white.
- Infants are not required to wear ties.
- Please name all your child's clothes, it helps us to return them promptly to the right owner!
- A reminder that children are not allowed to bring toys into school as this can cause distraction and upset. Any toys found in school will remain in the class stock cupboard until the end of the day and be handed back to parents at home time.
- School starts at 8:45, with a drop-off window between 8:35 – 8:43! Please inform the school office by 9.30 am if your child is not going to be in school that day.
- Show and tell is not part of Year 2 activities unless specified.
- Please ensure that your child is provided with a packed lunch or that you have ordered their lunch through our provider.
- At the end of the day, please make yourself visible by the "walk-through" in the wet weather shelter for quick and easy dismissals. I will dismiss the children to you as I see you. If you have a buggy with you, I appreciate that it is difficult to complete the walkthrough, so please just wait at the entrance where you can see me. It will take some time to match you up, please bear with me!

I hope I have covered aspects that you might have wondered about. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office. I am looking forward to another exciting term and a successful year with your children.

Kind regards

Mrs Liezl van der Merwe