



Widmer End Community Combined School and Pre-School

Year 2 Class Newsletter

7 January 2025

Dear Parents

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful festive period and managed to recharge your batteries.

On behalf of the Year 2 support staff and myself, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the lovely gifts you showered us with at the end of last term. Your generosity, thoughtfulness and kindness are truly appreciated.

Our topic this term is '**Planet Earth**' – a Geography and Science based topic linked to '**Living Things and Their Habitats**'.

Reminders

Reading: It is essential that you read with your child as often as possible - ideally every night, but at least 3 times a week. Parental involvement makes a significant difference. You can also support your child's comprehension skills by asking questions and discussing characters and settings.

Please include any other reading your child does outside of school in addition to the books sent home. When school books are allocated, remember to sign and date the Widmer End reading record each time, noting the pages you've read. Writing comments is optional. Reading books will be collected on Mondays, with new ones sent home on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Independence and Responsibility: This term, we will continue to encourage children to take responsibility for themselves and their belongings. Learning responsibility is a life skill, and sometimes, experiencing consequences can help reinforce it. Please guide and support your child as they develop this important skill. Sometimes not being responsible brings consequences. Please guide and support your child in facing these and let them learn from it.

Bookbags: Year 2 children are expected to use the formal school book bag with the Widmer End logo, not the rucksack. Adults will not check book bags at school, so please remind your child to hand in any forms, slips, or notes upon arrival. These can be placed in our special "Drop Box."

Only one keyring or toy figure is allowed on book bags, which should be kept neat and tidy as part of the school uniform. Ensure the bag is clearly labeled with your child's name.

Equipment: Each child will need:

- A simple, flat, transparent pencil case
- Two HB pencils
- A 30 cm rigid plastic ruler
- A Pritt glue stick
- A small, kid-safe pair of scissors
- Two black dry-wipe pens
- A whiteboard rubber or small microfiber cloth
- Good-quality coloring pencils

Please label all items clearly. Rubbers and pencil sharpeners are **not** required. Occasionally, children bring in rubbers and pencil sharpeners from home, which can lead to distractions and disagreements during lessons. To help maintain a smooth and focused learning environment, I kindly ask that these items are left at home. Rest assured, we have all the supplies they need in class. If any do come in, I'll hold onto them and return them to you at the end of the day. Thank you so much for your



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understanding and support—it makes such a difference!

Pencil cases will be sent home every Friday. Support your child in checking that their pencil case is fully stocked and pencils are sharpened. This ensures they are ready for learning and maximizes productivity during lessons.

PE: PE days are Tuesday and Friday. Children should come to school wearing the correct PE kit as outlined in the school uniform policy. Please ensure earrings are removed or taped with medical tape (e.g., micropore) on these days.

Water bottles and Fruit Snacks: Children need to bring a named water bottle daily, even on cooler days. Widmer End water bottles fit perfectly in our classroom storage. Please avoid sending overly large bottles. Children may refill their bottles during breaks and lunch. Bottles should contain plain water and be washed and refilled daily. The school provides a morning fruit snack, but children may also bring their own fresh fruit or vegetables in a named container. Flavoured water, juice, and yogurt-covered snacks are not permitted.

Hand Hygiene: Regular handwashing remains essential for preventing illness. Children will be expected to maintain good hygiene practices throughout the school day.

Helping at home:

- Read with your child at least 3 times per week.
- Practice spelling words. The Spelling Shed Word Lists for Spring Term 1 are on the school website. The first spelling check is on Friday, 10th January 2025.
- Use Spelling Shed and Active Learn regularly.
- Complete any additional work sent home.
- Practice common exception and high-frequency words using the word mat shared in September.

General Reminders:

- Keep us updated with any medical needs your child may have.
- Tie up shoulder-length or longer hair.
- Infant children do **not** need to wear ties.
- Name all clothing items to ensure they can be returned promptly if lost.
- Children are **not** allowed to bring toys to school to avoid distractions and upset. Toys brought to school will be kept in the class cupboard and returned at the end of the day.
- School starts at **8:43**. Please inform the school office if your child will be absent.
- Show-and-tell is not part of the Year 2 routine unless specified.
- Ensure your child has a packed lunch or that you have ordered their lunch through the school's lunch provider.
- At the end of the day, please make yourself visible by the "walk-through" in the wet weather shelter.

Term Dates:

Tuesday 7th January – Friday 14th February 2025

Monday 24th February – Thursday 4th April 2025

I look forward to continuing this journey with your child and hope for a positive and productive term. If you have any further questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards
Mrs van der Merwe