

# Squirrel Class Newsletter Autumn 2025



Dear Squirrel Class Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to Squirrel Class! We hope that you all had a wonderful, restful summer holiday and are looking forward to the new school year. It has been a brilliant first two weeks! We have really enjoyed getting to know the Year 1 children and seeing how well they have adjusted into a new class. The Year 2 children have really helped to welcome them to Squirrel Class which has been such a joy to see.

We have lots of special events coming up this term including a trip to Audley End (2nd October), the Year 2 cluster singing festival at LVC (9th October), a topic themed day, the Christmas Nativity production, and much more!

In Squirrels we will use Google Classroom to send reminders and messages about things throughout the year, so please remember to check it regularly. We also use Google Classroom to set the home learning challenges, which is explained under "Key Information". Year 2s have already received their log-in information to access Times Tables Rock Stars from home. Please do let us know if you are having any problems accessing these platforms and hopefully we can help.

We always welcome help from parents/grandparents who would like to come in and hear readers, so please let us know if you would be able to support us in this way. If you have any questions about the upcoming term or would like to speak to us regarding your child, you are very welcome to arrange an appointment to see one of us via the office or speak to us at the end of the day.

We would like to thank you in advance for all your support as we look forward to this year learning journey!

***Mrs L Kemshell*** (Class Teacher M, Tu, W), ***Mrs D MacBean*** (Class Teacher Th, F)  
***Mrs G Swan*** (TA mornings), ***Mrs K Fisher*** (TA afternoons)

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## Key Information

- **Water bottles:** Children are allowed to have a drink any time of day but please only send in water. To avoid big spillages on the carpet from wide mouth screw top bottles, please could we ask that bottles have straws or twisty tops if possible, as this minimizes spills. Thank you for your understanding.
- **Named clothing** Please ensure all clothing is named, including hats, scarves, shoes and PE kit.
- **PE:** PE takes place on **Monday** and **Thursday** each week. Please ensure PE kits are clearly labelled and always in school. They will be sent home at the end of each half term for washing. Earrings must be taken out to fully participate in PE; we are not allowed to tape over them so please avoid wearing earrings on PE days if possible. Any earrings that are removed for PE must be stored in a container (brought in from home) during the lesson. We strongly recommend children have their ears pierced at the start of the summer holidays so that children don't miss out on PE lessons. Miss Rankine will be teaching our PE on Thursdays this half term while Mrs MacBean teaches music to Deer class.
- **Reading:** Reading at home is a very important part of your child's education and children are expected to read regularly each week. Individual Reading books need to be in school everyday and are changed on Mondays and Monster Phonics reading books that the children will have read in their guided reading sessions during the week will be changed on Fridays. Please write in the reading communication book when you have heard your child read and don't forget to tick the sheet at the front to collect special stamps and certificates! The children will choose a new library book to take home every **Monday**, so please ensure their library book is their book bag on a Monday morning so that they have that option.
- **Challenge Folders:** Every Thursday Year 2 children will receive a **maths challenge**. Children will be expected to practice during the week and then complete the maths challenge on the following Thursday during their maths session with Mrs Evans. Once we feel they are secure, they will receive the next step in their challenge. Y2s will receive their spelling books again shortly, also due in on Thursdays.
- **Home Learning:** Each **Monday** we will set homework as an assignment on Google Classroom. This will be related to the topic we are currently learning about in class Please select something from the list and try and complete it by the following week. Then upload a photo/video of your work anytime before 9am the following Monday with a little message explaining what you have done so that it can be celebrated in our **Show and Tell session**. We really enjoy spending time as a class looking at all the work sent in and children will have the opportunity to talk about what they have done, answer questions from others in the class, and receive verbal feedback from the teacher. This is optional for those children in Year 1, as reading at home is the priority. Our Show and Tell session is also a time where the children are welcome to share an **important event** that has happened recently or a **personal achievement**. Please do not allow the children to bring in toys/ items from home unless it is related to the above. Thank you.

### Weekly Overview

**Monday:** Reading books & Library books collected and changed., PE, Show and Tell, Home learning set

**Thursday:** Y2 maths & spelling challenge, PE

**Friday:** MP Reading books collected and changed, and Monster Phonics book assigned.

### Wanted list!

We are always looking for ways to improve our indoor/outdoor learning environment to enhance the children's learning. I'm sure you are aware of the hard financial situation schools face at the moment so we have made a list of items which we would be very grateful for, if you have any of them lying around at home collecting dust! We would particularly like to focus on developing our outdoor area this year, so if you have something that you think we could use creatively please do speak to us!

- Left over bags of compost, soil, sand, gravel, bark
- Outdoor paint, Blackboard paint and outdoor varnish (opened tins are fine!)
- Outdoor toys eg diggers, animals
- Logs and log disks of any size
- Pipes and guttering
- Baking trays
- Baskets or containers
- Planks of wood
- Fairy lights
- Old trellis
- Gardening equipment eg. child sized watering can, unwanted seeds, pots, children's trowels, gloves
- Mud Kitchen
- Picnic table or outside table and chairs
- Conker's, pine cones, acorns, shells
- Artificial grass
- Toy trains for wooden train set (we have track, just not many trains!)

Please let us know if you can help in any way, we really would be very grateful!