Meet the teacher, Year 2

The importance of attendance -

* Obviously, we're all poorly from time to time but, whenever possible, please do ensure that your child is in school.
* Absence easily adds up and can have a significant impact on your child's learning so, if they've just got a bit of a sniffle, send them in! After all, we can always give you a ring if there is a problem.
* Absence is generally only important when your child has a contagious illness, particularly an upset tummy, when a period of 48 hours has to pass between the last episode of illness and when they can return to school.

The importance of arriving on time -

* Your child is busy learning from the minute that they arrive in class, when we go straight into our daily maths lesson as soon as we’ve finished the register.
* If they are routinely late, they still have to do this important learning, but it will generally be at the beginning of playtime.

The importance of arriving, ready to learn -

* Whilst this may seem obvious, it's worth pointing out the following -
  + Ensure your child gets enough sleep by setting an early bedtime and avoiding screen time immediately before going to sleep.
  + Give your child only healthy snacks - cereal bars, fruit, etc. and healthy lunch boxes.
  + Make sure your child has a water bottle that is refilled each day (with water!).

Growth mindset -

* We encourage both children and staff to approach life and learning with a growth mindset, so -
  + Encourage perseverance, even when the learning is tricky - remind your child that we only give them work that we know they can do
  + Congratulate the effort put into a piece of work, rather than the results alone
  + Demonstrate that practising a task can, over time, make it become easier
  + Talk about mistakes as an opportunity to learn and grow

Topics -

* 1st ½ Autumn Term –
  + All Aboard – a history topic linked to trains with a visit to the Perrygrove Railway doing the ‘Bottle to Juice’ day
* 2nd ½ Autumn Term –
  + A Journey to Moscow and Beyond – a geography topic focusing on Russia and comparing life in Russia with life in England
* Spring Term –
  + Pole to Pole – a history and geography topic learning about the two polar regions, with – hopefully – a visit to The Wilson Museum
* Summer Term –
  + Beware of the Rocks – a history topic about lighthouses, hopefully with a visit to the Waterways Museum in Gloucester

Homework -

* Your child will get one piece of formal, written homework weekly; this will be alternately English and maths work and will be directly linked to the learning that your child has been doing in school, in order words – they should have no difficulties completing it!
* Homework books will be sent home on Fridays to be returned by the following Wednesday. This gives children time to do their work at the weekend or on a week day evening.
* Please ensure your child completes their work in pencil and, when they return it, please remind them to put the book into the special homework book box. (They are also reminded to do this by staff in class.)
* Reading
* We hope to have heard every child read by the end of this week. Some children will then become what we call ‘free readers’ and some will read to a volunteer in school.
* We currently have two reading volunteers lined up to hear children read in school. Please do let us know if you would be willing to become a reading volunteer. You will be welcomed with open arms!
* If your child reads with a volunteer in school, they will bring books home. Please give your child an opportunity to read this book to you and please record in their reading diary that you have heard them.
* Of course, whatever reading stage your child is at, it's really important that they do read at home and, hopefully, that they see you reading too! The more children read, the more likely they are to discover a love for books that will stay with them for life.
* Please note that, every child will read within a guided reading group once a week.
* Spellings
* All children have to learn their year group spelling words. These words are listed in the National Curriculum.
* They have been tested on the Year 1 and each child has their own list of words that they need to learn to spell.
* In Year 2, children get four week's worth of spelling words every half term.
* Children get up to eight words a week which they practise in school.
* They will also bring these words home every Monday to give them the opportunity to practise further at home.
* The children are tested on the words at the end of each half term, after which the tests will be sent home so that parents can see how they have got on.
* Any words that they continue to struggle with, will be included in the next half-term's words.
* Spellings don't just have to be practised through writing them down. One little boy I taught successfully learned them on the way to school every morning, when he was chatting with his mum.
* Please find - in the section on spellings on the Year 2 page of the website - both the Year 1 and the Year 2 spellings words, a list of suggestions for learning these words and an extremely good website called spellingframe.co.uk - I highly recommend it.

In Year 2 -

* Mrs Matthews and Mrs Meeuwissen-True have worked together for many years and form an extremely strong team who have a very good knowledge and understanding of the Year 2 child!
* Mrs Meeuwissen-True works four mornings a week and one afternoon.
* Mrs Matthews is in class every day apart from Friday afternoons, when Mrs Britton teaches RE, PE.
* This year, we also have Miss Horsey working in the class every morning.

General information -

* Our PE days are Tuesday and Friday.

Finally -

* Year 2 is a happy and very hard-working class and we work, at all times, to ensure that your child has a wonderful year with us.
* If you ever have any queries, however, please do not hesitate to contact the office, see one of us at the end of the school day or contact me directly by email on cmatthews@holytrinity.gloucs.sch.uk