



6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent(s) and Carers,

A warm welcome to children joining Year 2/1 this year. I am so excited to welcome you back to school safe and well, and to work with your child over the next school year.

This year we will be focussing on our school phrase 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams' by Eleanor Roosevelt. We will specifically be looking at the 'belong' part of the phrase. This will allow us to focus on new beginnings and routines for ourselves as well as looking at the wider world of communities. Activities will be designed to foster a sense of security and acceptance within the classroom, school, at home, in our wider community and finally, where they would like to belong, thinking about their ambitions and dreams for the future. Throughout our journey we will be enjoying lots of lovely stories to lead our learning, which will have a strong literacy, numeracy and digital focus.

We aim to firstly to talk about new beginnings and routines for ourselves finding out where we belong, allowing us to create a lovely close knit, nurturing team ethos within the classroom between the children and staff. Next week, children will explore their emotions returning back to the group again and the wonderful world of colour through the story of the 'Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. Children will enjoy learning through lots of different contexts and both indoors and outdoors. We will make the most of our wonderful grounds by taking our learning outdoors as much as we can.

Our gross motor skills and physical activities will be planned for throughout the week, although we do have a designated hall slot that we will make the most of

each week. This slot is every Thursday morning. Please ensure that children are well prepared by coming to school dressed for this session in a t-shirt, joggers or leggings and a pair of trainers on this day. They can then wear this for the rest of the day, as no changing facilities are currently available. This session will begin on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Outdoor learning sessions are every Monday morning. Whereas our other outdoor activities may be postponed or adapted to suit an indoor setting if the weather is poor, during this session we will be making every effort, providing it's safe, to be outdoors, so children will need to be fully prepared for this. They will need a pair of wellies, a change of old clothes, socks included, waterproof suit/ trousers/coat with hood and hat scarf and gloves for when the weather becomes colder. Please ensure that all items have your child's name on. You are very welcome to leave wellies in school each week in our wellie buckets. This session will begin on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

In Numeracy this term, we will be concentrating on place value, addition and subtraction of numbers and multiplication. This provides a good opportunity for children to recap on important ideas introduced in their previous year. We will be developing the skills of reasoning and problem solving and using mathematical words for explaining ideas.

At Glynccollen we value the importance of instilling the love of reading from a young age, so we encourage you to share lots of lovely stories with your children. Bedtime is a lovely time to do this in a calm and cosy way.

We encourage children to talk about the stories that they have shared and love, asking questions as you read, making connections to prior knowledge and experiences, as well as enquiring about new words and ideas and simply pointing things out in the pictures. This is something that we advocate and encourage you to do at home too.

We will be using the online activity/app 'Teach Your Monster to Read', during class time and invite you to do the same at home if you wish. This is a wonderful resource, linked to the Letters and Sounds programme that we follow in school, helping children to recognise the different sounds whilst playing a fun game. It is free to create a little profile online and I believe the app is also free to download.

Shortly, you will receive a Letters and Sounds mat, which will show all of the sounds that we will be working our way through this year. This sound mat is a tool that children will be using when doing their Letters and Sounds activities as well as their individual writing pieces. At home we encourage you to put this mat somewhere where it can be seen regularly and to use it when you do any reading or writing at home.

Additionally, you will also receive a POPAT strip, which includes the initial sounds that children have been or will be exposed to. Again, this is a tool that children will learn to use to support their writing in class and at home. If you require any additional support in using either of these at home then please do not hesitate to contact me. We are very keen to support strong home-school links to help ensure your child feels happy, safe, valued and secure in school. However, visitors are not permitted to enter the school building at this time, so if you need to speak to a member of staff you will be required to make a phone appointment via the school office.

You will also receive a list of the first 100 high frequency words, which we will be working our way through this year. Children will be learning to recognise, read and write each of the words in lots of different situations. Multi-sensory activities are great for learning these words and suggest you do at home if you wish. You can use paints/ shaving foam/ spreadable chocolate/ chalks/ water writing as well as writing in glitter and using pencils and colours.

Please follow all our fabulous learning with your child on Twitter. As always, anything that you can do at home, we would love to see and celebrate, so please don't forget to tweet us. @GlyncollenY2Y1

Just a reminder that children can bring a fruit snack to eat during the morning break. Pupils will also need to bring a labelled water bottle that they can refill during the day when needed. We look forward to be working with you and your child over the year and thank you for your support.

With best wishes, Miss McElroy, Mrs Quick