



**Providing the rich soil that enables  
our children to develop deep roots and flourish.**

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **AUTUMN TERM 2024 – YEAR 2**

I hope that you all had a fantastic Summer break and had some well-deserved rest and time with your families.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for my cards, vouchers and gifts. I was completely overwhelmed with your kindness and generosity. It is really appreciated, thank you and welcome back to another year of Hereford life.

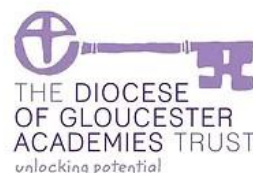
I know that you are all very familiar of the routines and expectations of Hereford but below is a reminder of things that will be happening and things that are needed from you at home.

Your children have now completed their phonics teaching and will now be taught spelling rules. For the first 5 weeks, will learn to spell using alternative Phase 5 sounds. Ideally, children would be coming to the end of the Phase 5 books and entering the turquoise level. Our reading scheme, after Phase 5, are colours: turquoise, purple, gold, white and lime. We would expect the children to reach white by the end of Year 2, ready for transition into Year 3.

All reading records and books are checked and changed twice weekly, on a Monday and a Thursday but are needed in school daily along with their reading records. Please write in your child's reading record about how they have got on with the books, noting any difficulties they may have experienced. Please note, on occasions we may ask children to re-read books to aid their fluency. We will also change books if both have been read on other days of the week, but the children will need to indicate this to us.

As well as spellings, all children receive 3 weekly reading lessons. In these lessons, they are taught the skills of a reader. Children will read a wide range of texts within class, so please don't be alarmed if their home-school book is not always read by the child, with an adult in school. However, if your child has read their home-school book with an adult in school, it is still important that they read the book at home too. We are holding another Phonics' evening on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025, which many of you would have attended last year. If you think that this may be useful to you this year, you are very welcome to attend. We will be discussing teaching children to read. As well as this, we will discuss the statutory phonics' check, but this part is only relevant to the Year 1 parents.

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Along with daily reading, children will receive weekly spelling homework. Please encourage your children to read the words and practise the spellings each day. They will all contain rules, sounds and common exception words (known as jumping red words) that they have been taught that week.

Children will receive their homework on a Monday and will need to be returned on a Friday. Homework expectations can be found in the front of their homework books. We spend a lot of money in school on reading and exercise books so please keep them in the zip case provided so that they stay in good condition. We ask you not to put water bottles inside book bags in case they leak.

As a school, we are tightening up on our school uniform policy. Children are permitted to wear only simple stud earrings and a watch. Please could we ask that hair is tied back and if your child would like to wear a hair accessory, it is plain and simple and in our school colours.

The children will receive two weekly PE lessons. One with myself and one with Mr Spurrier. These will be on a Thursday and Friday. Children can come into school on these days, in their PE kits and trainers. If you require any new kit due to it being outgrown, please return the old kit, in good condition, to Mrs Russell and we will arrange a replacement kit.

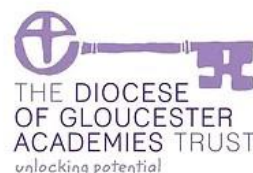
On a Friday the children will also have Outdoor Learning, which is taught by Mrs Greenwoods. Children will need to have a **separate** change of clothes for this lesson. This should include a long sleeved t-shirt and leggings/trousers. In the colder months, they will need more layers. Please also ensure that children have spare footwear. It can get muddy in the Planny so wellies or old trainers would be preferable. We will provide waterproofs to all children, unless they wish to wear their own.

If your child does not have the appropriate kit, they may not be able to participate and will receive a slip home notifying you of this.

Please provide your children with a water bottle. These will be sent home daily to be washed and can be re-filled by the children at any time in the day. They are encouraged to drink regularly. Fruit is provided by the school at break times but if you wish to send in a snack with your child, that is also fine but please ensure that it is a healthy snack. Milk is also available but you must sign up for this. It is not provided free of charge in KS1.

The BLOG will be updated termly, which will inform you of the learning. Please make sure you are subscribed to this in order to get the updates. <https://www.amberleyschool.co.uk/blog-1>. On our

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website, you will also find the yearly overview detailing when each Immersion Curriculum block takes place. For those of you that are not familiar with the Amberley Immersion Curriculum (AIC), this is the teaching of our Foundation Subjects: Science, Geography, History, Art, Music and DT Food. These subjects are taught in blocks of 1-2 weeks. The overview for each block of the AIC is placed on our class page so that you are able to see the skills, knowledge and vocabulary taught. If you think you may be able to bring expertise to any of these areas, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we would love to have you in supporting!

If there are any questions that you do have, please do not hesitate to speak to me. You can email me directly on [shamilton@amb.dgat.org.uk](mailto:shamilton@amb.dgat.org.uk) or contact me via the class page – this goes straight into my inbox. Alternatively, I am usually at the gate in the morning and at the end of the day so please catch me then, or make an appointment.

I look forward to working with you all.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Hamilton  
Hereford Class Teacher

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