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Monday 11th September 2017

Dear Parents,

We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. The children have certainly returned to school looking smart and ready to learn! We are very excited about getting to know them and having lots of fun while we explore the curriculum together.

Curriculum:

Our topic this term is Memories.

During topic lessons we will be covering all of the Foundation subjects.

English- We will be completing an author study and exploring traditional tales, instructions and poems.

Maths- Number and Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Fractions, Measures including Time and Money, Geometry including properties of shapes and direction and movement, Multiplication and Division

RE – Belonging; Celebrations

Science- Animals including humans, Living things and their habitats.

PE –Ball Skills, Gymnastics & Dance

Homework:

Children in Year 2 will be given an English/Maths or Topic based piece of homework relating to work we have covered during the week. Homework will be sent home on Fridays in the children's homework books and should be **completed and handed in by the following Wednesday**.

Spellings – All children will receive spellings each Friday to learn for a test on the following Friday. They will be given their spellings in their spelling book and asked to practice using the look, cover, write check method. These spellings will be based around a spelling pattern; however, the words will be differentiated depending on the child's group. To extend your child's spelling learning you might like to discuss other words with them that follow the same pattern and practice putting them into sentences.

Reading - Children are also expected to read for at least 20 minutes daily, as part of their homework. We suggest you encourage your child to read regularly and to bring the book to school every day.

Please ensure that you sign your child's home/ school journal at home each time they read (either to an adult or independently) and kindly leave a note in the journal to state that the book has been read/ completed, so that it can then be changed.

The school runs a homework club before school on a Monday morning. The club runs from 8-8:55am. If you would like to send your child to this club it is free of charge and breakfast is provided.

PE sessions:

Our outdoor PE session is now on a **Friday** afternoon. These sessions will be based around developing teamwork and cooperation, positive attitudes towards learning, promoting aspirations and many other areas and skills. Therefore it is important that children take part in sessions and come prepared. Most sessions will take place outside (whatever the weather!) and therefore on a **Friday** children will need to bring to school, their PE kits; including suitable outdoor clothing, shoes and a waterproof coat in the event of rain.

The children have indoor PE on **Tuesdays**. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit which should consist of a plain white T-shirt, black shorts and pumps; they can bring plain black/navy jogging trousers and jumper if it is colder outside and trainers for outdoor lessons only. PE kits should be brought into school in a named, drawstring bag please. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in PE lessons we require a note of explanation. Please can you remind your children that earrings should be removed before PE lessons.

Uniform:

In our first assembly this year Miss Cooke spoke to the children about taking great pride in their appearance and wearing the correct school uniform. Staff will be reminding children about the uniform expectations at school regularly. Please support us in ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform, thank you.

Recommended Clothing

- Royal blue sweatshirts/cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress
- Blue checked dress in summer if preferred
- Plain shoes (not trainers)
- Reversible waterproof fleece jacket.

At Howes we ask the children to wear a pair of outdoor shoes to and from school and whilst outside at playtime/lunchtime as this enables them to make the most of the school grounds during the wetter weather. Once they arrive at school we ask the children to change into indoor shoes. Please could we ask you to encourage your child to bring a pair of named indoor shoes to keep at school, such as slippers, school shoes or pumps. Thank you.

Children with long hair should come to school with their hair tied back please.

Jewellery

For safety reasons children should not wear jewellery to school. We ask that children with pierced ears should only wear stud earrings.

Raincoats:

It is very important that all children bring a waterproof coat to school as Autumn approaches. We will try to ensure that children have a daily outdoor playtime, even if there is slight rain.

Playtime Fruit and Snacks:

Fruit at playtime is provided for children in Early Years and Key Stage 1, however if your child wishes to bring in their own snack from home then we are still keen that children think carefully about making healthy choices for their playtime snacks. Children may also bring in a labelled **water** bottle each day, which can be kept in the classroom. Please can all children make sure that they take their water bottle home at the end of the day.

Please can we remind you that the children should **not** bring any nuts to school either as a snack or as part of their packed lunch, thank you.

Behaviour Expectations

Howes is a friendly and caring community and we are keen for our children to take on these and other values. Our house point system is proving effective at encouraging children to follow our golden rules and values. We would still very much like parents and carers to help us in reinforcing these rules and values with the children.

Please can children be reminded that they should not bring toys into school, unless they have been given permission to do so.

Celebration Assemblies

Our 'Celebration Assembly' takes place on a Friday morning at 9am. This is an opportunity for teachers to nominate two children from each class per week, to receive an award for an aspect of outstanding work, achievement or behaviour. Parents will be invited to come into school for the assembly when their child is awarded their certificate. You will receive a letter on a Wednesday to inform you that your child has been nominated.

Absences and Medical Needs:

We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office at the number above as soon as possible. Any medication that your child requires during the day should be given to the Office, for a First Aider, in the original container and a medical administration consent form needs to be completed. Inhalers must be labelled and be handed in to your child's class teacher to be stored safely in the classroom.

Timings of the day:

The start of a Howes school day in Year 2 begins with an English lesson starting straight after the register is taken. It is therefore very important that all pupils arrive promptly in order to start the school day at 8.55am. So that children are ready to come into school at this time, we would ask that all children are present on the playground at least 5 minutes before the school bell sounds.

The end of the school day for pupils is Key Stage 1 is at 3.15pm. Please note that this is 5 minutes earlier than Key Stage 2 pupils.

Parent Helpers:

At Howes we recognise the valuable contribution that all members of our community make to our school. We are lucky to have so many parents and carers who show commitment to Howes in so many ways. We are always happy to welcome helpers into the classroom, so if you would like to volunteer to help in any way please do come and speak to Mrs Bolland. We may also need additional adult support for our upcoming trips so please let us know if you are available.

Important Events for Year Two pupils:

Week Beginning 11 th September	School Clubs to Start This Week
11 th September	Class Information Sessions
11 th October	Parents' Evening
Week Beginning 24 th October	Half Term
30 th October	Back to School
3 rd November	Individual Photographs
28 th November	Staff Surgery (3:30pm-4:00pm)
5 th and 6 th December	FS/KS1 Christmas Performance (2pm-3pm)
8 th December	Friends of Howes Christmas Fayre (3:30pm-6:30pm)
18 th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
21 st December	End of Term
8 th January	Start of Term

We are looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Kerby, Mrs Davies
Mrs White, Mrs Burke & Mrs McCabe.

