

Welcome to Mars Class

Years 1/2



Ridgewell
C of E VA Primary School

Mars Class

Welcome to Mr Irvine's Year 1 and 2 class. Mr Irvine is supported by classroom assistants Mrs Laidlaw, Mrs McBride and Miss Gipson.

We hope you will find this booklet useful in helping to answer some of the questions you may have. Please feel free to come to talk to us, as one of our main aims is to work with you, the parent, in the education of your child.

General Information

- Routines in Mars Class

Doors open at 8.50am and your child will line up in the playground before being met outside by the teacher. Children will undertake a morning activity during registration time, so please make sure they arrive promptly.

- Absence

If your child is not going to be in school because of an illness or appointment then please contact school as early as possible.

- **Uniform**

Please ensure all uniform is labelled including coats and P.E. kits. Some items of uniform are available from the school office.

- **Contacts**

Please make sure we have up-to-date contacts and that you have signed up for Parent Mail.

- **Helping in class**

If you have time to spare and would like to help in class please mention it to us. We always appreciate your help.

- **Reading**

Please ensure your child has their reading book and reading diary with them every day. Your child will read individually with a member of staff at least once a week and take part in guided reading sessions.

It is extremely important that children practice their reading every day at home. This does not always have to be their school reading book. Please make sure you sign the reading record every time you hear your child read. We are planning a phonics and reading meeting with parents very soon.

Homework will be sent home every Friday and returned by the following Wednesday. Please feel free to support your child if needed.

Sport

P.E. is on Thursday and Friday afternoons but extra lessons can be ad-hoc. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school every day. Please ensure all ear-rings are removed and your child has their P.E. kits. *(school t-shirt, black shorts or tracksuit bottoms and white trainers)*

Outdoor Learning

We dedicate one session a week to outdoor learning as we believe in the importance of children learning through experience and also of the benefits of working outside. This will often complement their literacy and mathematics lessons so children are able to make links to real world experiences.

Learning in Years 1 and 2

Lessons taught in years one and two follow the National Curriculum. The subjects within the National Curriculum are English, Maths, Science, ICT, History, Geography, Art, Design Technology, Music, Physical Education, PSHE and R.E.

Homework

There are two types of homework given out to Mars class, topic/literacy based one week, maths the second.

- **Topic/Literacy Based Homework**

Children will receive a homework task based on the topic the class is currently studying. Often the children will have the freedom to complete the task in their own way as we are trying to encourage the children to think independently.

- **Maths Homework**

Work relating to the maths studied in school will be given out once a fortnight. Please try to encourage your child to complete these as independently as possible, noting if they needed support.

- **Word Workshop**

Each child will be given a Word Workshop card. This needs to come into school each day. Inside the card are the letter sounds and/or words your child is currently practising. Please do not mark the inside of the card as this is for the adults in school to use to monitor your child's progress. However please feel free to use the back of the card as suggested.

Year One and Two children learn through a topic based creative curriculum which enables them to make links in their learning. It is also important that children in Year One start to take responsibility for their learning. The children are encouraged to do this with problem solving tasks and independent activities.

Our topics this year:

Autumn Term: Around the world
 Being Healthy

Spring Term: Home and Away
 Seasonal Changes

Summer Term: Toys, past and present
 Build it!

Trips

As part of our school's aim to make learning interesting and enjoyable, we aim to book one trip per term to enhance the topics we are covering.

We have started to make enquiries for our first trip and will let you more details very soon.

- Values

Our whole school centres on teaching children about different Christian Values. These values form the focus of our assemblies and also classroom discussions and they are changed each month.

To keep you informed about what your child is learning at school we send home our termly newsletter which informs you of our topic and how this is taught in different subject areas.

If, at any time throughout the year, you have a concern or would like to inform me of or ask me something please pop in to see me.

I look forward to working with you and your child and watching them learn, have fun, grow and develop.

Mr Irvine