Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly we would like to start by welcoming you and your children into Year 2. They all had a successful year in Year 1 and our aim is to build on this and ensure that your children continue making excellent progress. Most of all, we want your child to enjoy Year 2 this year and have lots of fun, which we are sure they will. We look forward to the year ahead as we start our journey into another exciting year.

**Reading**

Children must continue to practise their reading at least three times each week. Parents need to sign records every week as they will be checked on a Friday. We will be rewarding those children that read at home with a celebration reading party at the end of the term. Children need to have reading books and reading records in school every day. Reading should be an enjoyable activity for both yourself and your child; we do allow children to select their own reading material from home in addition to their school reading book. Reading is a crucial element of the curriculum therefore you need to help us by ensuring that your child does read at home.

**Homework**

We are continuing with the homework grid this year and the children will be expected to choose activities off the grid and complete them at home. Your child will bring their homework book home and will need to return it to school as soon as they have completed a piece of homework. Homework prizes will be given out at the end of the term and we would like all children to put 100% effort into completing their homework. The homework grid will not be sent out until September when we start our first topic. The children can choose which homework pieces they complete and the order in which they complete it. Please speak to your child’s teacher if you require any resources.

**Spellings**

As you are probably aware, we have daily 15 minute spelling sessions in school and this has had a huge impact on the children’s progress in spelling. On a Monday, the children are given their list of spellings and we have a spelling test every Friday. Please assist us by discussing spellings with children and ensuring that the children have some time at home to practise spellings.

**Times Table**

Times tables are a vital area in Year 2 and all children need to be comfortable knowing and saying the 2,3,4,5 and 10 times table. Please practise times table at home as by the end of Year 2 all children will be tested on these. Remember we have rewards for children who learn their times tables and we have recently started using Times Table Rockstars. You can access this at home by downloading the free app. Children should know their log in details or please see your child’s class teacher.

**Topics and Trips**

Our Autumn Term topic will be ‘Life as a Victorian’ therefore all of our learning and curriculum will be linked to the Victorian Times. We will be making Victorian toys, finding out about Victorian schools and buildings and taking a closer look at what they ate and what they wore. In English, the children will be learning about what it was like to be a Victorian Chid and we will be looking at the story Scrooge. We will be planning a Victorian Day in school where your child will have the opportunity to come to school dressed as a Victorian and we are also planning a school trip to the Ryedale Folk Museum. We will let you know what dates we will be visiting during the first week back and payment cards will be available for you to contribute towards the payment. It is going to be a very exciting first half term and we are more than certain that your child will love learning all about the Victorians.

**PE**

Year 2 will be going swimming in September for the whole of the Autumn Term, therefore every Monday your child needs to bring their swimming kit to school. A consent letter will be given out on Tuesday 4th September and our first swimming session will take place on Monday 10th September. Year 2 children will also need to bring their PE Kits into school on a Thursday because they have a PE session. If it is easier, please leave your child’s PE kit in school and take it home to wash every half term. Please ensure that your child brings the appropriate PE kit to school not football kits. As it will get colder throughout the Autumn Term, your child can bring a blue or black tracksuit to wear.

Finally we would just like to say that our doors are always open if you ever have any concerns or if there is anything you would like to discuss. The classroom doors onto the playground will be open from 8:30 and your child will have the opportunity to come in and complete Morning Maths.

Thank you,

Miss Price, Miss Layton and Mrs Brodie