



Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you have had as enjoyable a summer as was possible in the circumstances and would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to Year 2.

This bulletin aims to provide you with information concerning work the children will be covering in the Autumn Term and also some general points about the organisation of this year's curriculum. Also please be aware that we will be working with your children to ensure there are no gaps in their learning resulting from the school closures last year.

We will send you a link to our videod Curriculum Evening on Friday 25th September, which you can watch at your leisure. This should give you more detailed information about the year group and answer any questions you may have. If you do have any questions please can you direct them to the class reps and we will attempt to answer these as best as we can.

ENGLISH

Throughout the year in English, we will be working to teach the spelling, grammar and punctuation set out in the National Curriculum. This term we will be securing the children's knowledge of sentence punctuation, including introducing the use of question marks and exclamation marks where appropriate. We will also be encouraging the children to use description in their writing and begin to use the apostrophe to show contraction and possession.

We will begin by looking at some traditional tales and adventure stories before examining instructional writing and a penguin-based non-fiction project. We will end the term by studying Paul Geraghty's "Solo".

We will be sending weekly spelling rules home and will teach this within their phonics lessons. On Fridays, the children will be tested on their ability to apply the rule to spell words in dictated sentences. We will also teach handwriting and encourage the children to form all letters correctly with the hope that all children will be joining their handwriting by the end of the year, as set out in the national assessment expectations.

Please see the "General Notes" below for information on reading.

MATHEMATICS

The units of work being covered this term include: place value, counting on in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s, addition and subtraction, number bonds to 10 and 20, mental calculation strategies, money, problem solving and reasoning, checking results, length and time, 2D and 3D shapes, recognising fractions of shapes & small numbers and simple data handling. Many of these areas will be revisited a number of times throughout the Spring and Summer terms to consolidate and extend the children's understanding.

The work will build on what the children have learnt in Year 1. In addition to material taught in Year 1, by the end of Year 2 children should be able to confidently count in 3s, add and subtract 2 digit numbers, understand and use multiplication and division to solve reasoning problems and tell the time to the nearest 15 minutes. More information about the end of Key Stage expectations can be found on the National Curriculum website.

SCIENCE

Our first science topic this term will be "Healthy Me". Led through discussion-based activities and practical investigations, the children will be identifying what we need to sustain a healthy and balanced lifestyle, physically, emotionally and socially.

After the October half term the children will be learning about forces, developing their skills in scientific enquiry through a series of investigations. The children will then apply their understanding of forces to help in several design projects.

P.E.

Throughout the year all classes will have an indoor P.E. lesson and an outdoor P.E. lesson each week. Our P.E. days are Tuesday and Thursday. Please make sure that your child comes into school wearing their PE kit on these days. If possible we would also like them to keep a pair of trainers in school so that we can participate in the Phoenix Mile when time allows.

The Dance theme this term is body management. After half term the indoor PE unit is Gymnastics. In outdoor PE we will be working on football and hockey skills.

R.E

In Year Two we will explore two of the major world faiths; Christianity and Islam. This term the children will be learning about the life of Jesus and the way Christians worship and lead their lives.

MUSIC

Music lessons will focus on pulse, beat and duration of sound, the structure of songs and stories and poems in music. The children will have the opportunity to sing, play instruments, listen and respond to music from different times and cultures and compose their own simple music.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The children will design and make candle holders, developing their skills using and manipulating clay, as well as painting. They will also be creating a small stocking decoration using felt and practising their sewing skills.

GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Our Geography module this term is 'The Seaside'. The children will use maps to locate seaside resorts within the U.K. and Mexico, comparing and contrasting features of seaside locations with their own locality. We would greatly appreciate any photographs or postcards of areas and places visited (seaside/countryside/cities etc.). Please name any photographs sent in so that we are able to return them safely. We will also be exploring the history of the seaside, looking at holidays in the Victorian era and famous people from this time, including paleontologist, Mary Anning.

COMPUTING

In computing the children will begin to learn how to use the school's platform for remote learning. They will also be learning about how computers operate, understanding the language of programming and building on their knowledge of instructional writing. Children will use algorithms to create and test their own computer games, as well as programming a robot. In lessons children will also develop their understanding of computer navigation and word processing. Computing will also be used across the curriculum to support the children's learning in other subjects, with many useful resources being made available to the children and parents.

ART

The children will develop their art skills by working with painting, drawing this term. They will work on the visual elements of shape, texture and colour. Science and other topic work will be reinforced through related art activities.

PSHE

This year we will continue to follow the 'Jigsaw' scheme of work that the children started last year and is used throughout the school. It integrates PSHE, emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development. The 'jigsaw' approach is to bring all of these aspects of learning together into one clear picture, helping children to know who they are and understand how they relate to other people in the world. Jigsaw PSHE promotes a mindful approach, teaching children how to be more aware of their thoughts and feelings as they happen.

The first two pieces of the jigsaw to be studied in the Autumn Term are 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'.

GENERAL ITEMS:

READING:

This year the children will be taking their reading folders home every day. Everyone needs to bring their folders to school daily in case we need them to read to a teacher or teaching assistant at school. We ask that water bottles are not kept in reading folders to and from school as they can leak and damage the books, thank you.

The children are encouraged to choose their own books for their personal reading (in book folders) and will be given the opportunity to change their books, if required, each day. At times you may find that your child has chosen a book which is a little too hard for them to manage alone. In these cases please read alternate pages or read the story first to familiarise them with the storyline. Similarly, your child may sometimes choose an easier book. Again, this is no major problem as there are huge benefits that come from repetition and children often enjoy a familiar book. We do try to monitor and record their book choices, but this can be difficult to manage on a daily basis and we do appreciate your help, particularly with reminding your children to change their books once they have finished one. **Each child has been provided with a copy of the Read, Write Inc sounds to use as a reference as well as the speed sound sheet.** We greatly value the support parents give their children at home with reading and would like you to continue to encourage your child to read at home on a regular basis and to provide feedback in the reading diary. We will also be sending home a list of common exception words. If you could practise these with your child to ensure they recognise these on sight when reading. This will help both the fluency of their reading and their spelling.

The class teacher will aim to hear each child read once a week, usually using 'guided reading' materials and not their personal reading books. There will normally just be a comment saying 'guided reading' in their diaries as we keep guided reading records in school for our regular use, so please do not worry if there is no further comment made by the teacher in their reading diary. Should there be any cause for concern, or items which we feel need to be brought to your attention, then we would certainly do so.

As we prepare for the end of Key Stage reading assessment, we develop the children's ability to answer comprehension questions and analyse the text they are reading. We also use the adult support within the year group to support children who are struggling with their reading on a "Focus Reader" program.

YEAR 2 PARENT MEETING:

As an alternative to the curriculum evenings we will be sending home a video of our Year 2 curriculum information. We hope that this will provide you with all of the information you should need from us on the curriculum but encourage you to send any questions through your Class Reps and we will do our best to answer these.

Thank you for taking the time to read this bulletin, we hope you find the information useful. However, should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us. We are usually available for a chat after school and look forward to meeting you all.

Joshua Bailey, Madeleine Jensen and Hannah Robinson.

Year 2 Class Teachers

