

Class 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Summer holiday. We are both very excited about working with your children once again and being part of this step on their learning journey.

We will be supported in Year Two by Mrs. Jones every morning. Mrs. Potts' PPA time will be covered by Mrs. Connor from 2pm on Monday afternoons and Mrs. Barlow will cover Mrs. Meadham's PPA from 2pm on Thursday afternoons.

Our new topic for the first half term is called: 'What makes Great Britain Great?' This will firstly include some atlas work based on the countries and capital cities of Great Britain; a look at our Royal Family, the role of the monarchy and famous British landmarks and castles before moving to what a parliament is and The Gunpowder Plot, linked to Bonfire Night.

Within this topic we will be discussing and celebrating some awesome British authors. We will also look at some non-fiction writing, in English, linked to the Queen and her coronation; creative writing and poetry writing linked to Bonfire Night. Our Write Stuff Unit is an alternative version of George and the Dragon and the children will be working hard on writing their own version. To complement our vocabulary development in Year Two we have already shared the story 'The Word Collector' and we have already begun to create our own window of words in our classroom which we will add to daily.

Our work in Maths this half term will focus on place value and ordering numbers, counting on and back in 10s from any number to 100, addition and subtraction, money, fractions and shape. We will also be looking at our basic skills and number bonds in the hope that we will recall them with speed and accuracy.



Upcoming Events

Sunday 29th September

Harvest presentation in church led by Class 2

Thursday 25th October

Parent Teacher meetings

WANTED!

Parent/grandparent helpers who can help with reading activities each morning (Mon-Thurs) from 9-9.40am.

School Library

Remember your child can access the School Library at any break time to supplement school reading books.

Cloakroom

Due to limited space in the cloakroom, children should only bring one small drawstring bag.

PE

PE is on a Tuesday and Friday this half term. All children need an interchangeable kit for indoor and outdoor use depending on the weather. Children need pumps and outdoor trainers. Please ensure everything has a name in. This term sees us learning dance and netball.

Science

Our Science topic this term looks at materials and their properties. We will be looking at what objects are made from and how they can be changed (e.g. bending, twisting, stretching, squashing). There may even be some chocolate tasting to see if cooling and heating makes a difference. Please let us know if your child is unable to take part in chocolate tasting for any reason within the next week or two. It would be helpful if you could talk to your child about the materials used for objects around the home and those you see outside in the environment.

Birthday Books

As you know, we are a Healthy School and therefore do not give out sweets, cake etc. on birthdays, but we would be very grateful for birthday books which can be shared with the class especially good quality picture books or chapter books relevant to the age group.

Home Learning

We would like to emphasise practicing basic skills for Home Learning. These are non-negotiable elements that focus on Reading or being read to, spelling and times table practice on a daily basis. Pupils will also receive fortnightly Maths tasks based on our Year 2 learning objectives.

Reading

Every pupil will take part in a Guided Reading activity at least once per fortnight with a class teacher. We also endeavour to listen to pupils read once a week one-to-one. This could be with a teacher, teaching assistant, adult helper or reading buddy. The whole curriculum in Year Two is geared around the children accessing activities with greater independence. This therefore means they are expected to read instructions, questions, signs, text on the walls, on worksheets, in textbooks etc multiple times per day; thus constantly practising reading for a purpose.

Your child will have one book called a 'core scheme' book. This book will be changed when they read with an adult.

Simple Tips for Whilst You Read

- Talk about what can be inferred from the pictures before you read the text. What can you see? What are the characters' expressions showing?
- Discuss the meaning of words. Support your child with using a dictionary to explore words and their meanings.
- Discuss alternative words. An example would be, 'Happy is a bit of a boring adjective, isn't it? What could we use instead?' Use a thesaurus.
- Make predictions and be able to justify them. What do you think will happen next? What makes you think that? If their prediction is way off the mark, model your own and give your reasons.
- Discuss the setting of the story. Have you read another book with the same setting? What about in a similar time period? Is it set in the past, present or future? How do you know?
- Have you learnt anything whilst reading this book that you didn't know before? Pretend that you have learnt a new fact and explain it.
- Don't be scared of exploring and discussing concepts that appear in the text, such as betrayal, dishonesty, snobbery, etc.

Children will then have a 'Home Reader' book that they choose for themselves from within their colour band.

Children may change their home reader as they require.

It is very important that you continue to read with your child at home. It has been proven that the more children read, the greater their vocabulary and therefore writing ability. Please write in your child's reading record when you have read at home. Every time you have read with your child and comment in their book it earns your child a team point. Please comment on accuracy, fluency, connections they have made to other stories, questions they have asked etc.

At least ten minutes of reading each evening would be a good target. There is a section in the reading record for the children to write about a book they have read, during the week. Children should comment on what they liked, disliked, what the story reminded them of, what they thought of the author's style

Please ensure your child has their **reading books in their book bag in school every day** as the day they change their books may change depending on the demands of the week.

Spellings at Home

Once initial assessments have been finalised, pupils will be given spellings to learn every Friday to be tested the following Friday. Please support your child in the completion of their spelling practice sheet and in learning the words. If your child is learning the given words quite easily please further explore the spelling pattern by finding other words which fit, make sure your child can use the words in a sentence and know what they mean. Whilst the children may get their spellings correct, in the Friday test, they often still spell them incorrectly in their independent writing so it is important to revisit words on a regular basis. Common Exception words are very important; some will be given within pupils' lists, but please work on these continuously.

The first set of spellings will be sent home on Friday 13th September. You will receive an overview sheet for the half term for your child's group as well as a copy of the Common Exception words for Year 1 and 2.

It would support our Maths learning if you could also practise the spelling of numbers during this first few weeks.

Mathematics at Home

In the Autumn term our 'Quick Mental Maths' and 'Mad Minutes' will focus on:

- Recall all number bonds to and within 10 off by heart and use these to reason with and calculate bonds to and within 20, recognising other associated additive relationships

- (e.g. If $7 + 3 = 10$, then $17 + 3 = 20$; if $7 - 3 = 4$, then $17 - 3 = 14$; leading to if $14 + 3 = 17$, then $3 + 14 = 17$, $17 - 14 = 3$ and $17 - 3 = 14$).
- All doubles and halves from double 1 to double 20 / half of 2 to half of 40
- (E.g. double 17=34, half of 28 = 14)

Harvest Festival

Our first class assembly will take place in church on Sunday 29th September at the 10:30am service. If your child is unable to attend, please let one of us know as soon as possible as we will need to get organized very soon.

If you have any concerns or would like to support in school, please feel free to speak to either of us. Please keep us informed of anything happening in your child's life which may have an impact on their well-being or academic success.

Here's to a busy, exciting year! We very much look forward to working with you and your children during the coming year.

Kind regards

Mrs. Potts and Mrs. Meadham