

## Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 1 2019 Class 2

Welcome back to school! I hope you have all had a lovely summer break and are ready for an exciting year in class 2! I've really enjoyed planning all the interesting topics and literacy work for this half term. I'm sure the children are going to have lots to share with you at home throughout these next seven weeks. If you have any problems then please feel free to come and see me before or after school. Also, you can contact me through my email address which is [emma.barker@netherthongprimary.co.uk](mailto:emma.barker@netherthongprimary.co.uk). Keep checking our class blog for updates on what we have been up to in class! Here is a link: <https://www.netherthongprimary.co.uk/our-classes/class-5-test-5/class-2-blog> Thank you, Mrs Barker.



### English

In our Literacy work this half term we will be using the book, 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. We shall learn all about his epic expedition to the Antarctic filled with peril and danger. We shall write adverts for our crew, diaries about our adventures, descriptions of Shackleton's ship – Endurance. Amy Johnson will also feature in our explorers topic, where we will learn about her grit and determination to be the first woman to fly solo across the world! Children will participate in a literacy activity every morning, including guided reading with an adult and one-to-one reading, therefore **reading books** and **reading records** need to be in school **each day**.

### Maths

In maths, we are going to be looking mainly at number, including place value, and mastering the basic skills we need to consolidate our learning. We will be introducing some new vocabulary. Reasoning skills will be embedded throughout all maths lessons. We are going to be using Mathletics for homework and your child will have their own username and password. I will set a number of 'assignments' each week which will relate to the work we have covered in class. If you do not have access to a computer, speak to me and we can make alternative arrangements.

### Art

Through our explorers topic, we will be designing, making and decorating our own paper boats. We shall create snow/ice scenes using stencils and chalks.

### Important Dates

- Individual photos – 17<sup>th</sup> September
- Parent's Evening – 21<sup>st</sup> October 3.30 to 8pm  
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October 3.30 to 5pm

If any other exciting opportunities arise, I will inform you of dates and times.

### Science and Computing

In computing, children will be looking at aspects of being safe online and beginning to understand how to search effectively for information.

In science, we are going to be closely studying plants and trees; setting up a comparative test to see what plants need to grow well, and watch the germination process.

### RE/PSHE

In RE, we are going to be looking at how we welcome people into the world. We will explore baptism, and naming ceremonies.

### PE

The children will be studying netball with Project Sport. Also, we will be looking at golf and the basic skills needed in this sport.

### Topic

Although we cover a lot of topic work through our literacy, we shall delve deeper into 'Intrepid Explorers' by learning about Christopher Columbus and his journey to America. We will look at the life of Neil Armstrong and compare his life to Columbus'. On Friday afternoons, children will get the opportunity to bake with Mrs Wilson – **I will be asking for £1 contribution towards the cost of ingredients each half term.**

### Other Information

Please can you ensure that PE kits are in school every day with suitable clothing for both outside and inside activities. Earrings must be taken out or covered in tape and long hair needs to be tied back. Homework should be handed in on Wednesdays and given out on Friday. As well as Mathletics activities there will be some grammar questions and word work based on Y2 spelling patterns and common exception words. Reading books **need** to be brought every day – please remember to record your reading in the reading record.



## Ways to help your child in Year 2:

As you know, we have high expectations in year 2! A copy of our end of year expectations and the Key Stage 1 interim framework can be found on our class page on the school website. Here is a link: <http://www.netherthongprimary.co.uk/our-classes/class-2>

As discussed in the curriculum evening back in July, I'd be really grateful if you would regularly read with your child/ren. Reading is so important, not just to comprehension, but to their writing also. A child who does not read regularly will struggle to write sufficiently well enough to be a secure writer at the end of Key Stage 1. I will be providing guidance in your child's reading record and throughout the weeks, I will ask you to focus on a particular aspect of reading – this will help to build a clear picture of your child's reading journey.

Mathletics is our new learning platform and is there to support the maths that we are learning in class, this will be great consolidation of the topics and I'm sure the children will find the activities fun. If a child is struggling with a certain concept, please let me know. On the inside front cover of the homework book, there are more details about Mathletics.

**Children in year two should be spending the average of 1 hour across the week completing homework, including reading with your child each night.**

I will not be doing a traditional style spelling test each week, but focusing on word building, vocabulary and spelling patterns. I will be giving out word-based challenges to help children to retain this information.

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Mrs Barker and Miss Hemingway**