

Year 2 Newsletter – Autumn 2015

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back after the summer holiday. We have some real treats in store for the new Year 2s - details are below, with more subject specific details on the next page. If you have any ideas or you can help us with trips/ listening to children read etc, please come in and see us.

This half term we welcome Mr Harvey, a trainee teacher, who will be working in the Year 2 classes. We are especially excited about the computer coding skills he's going to teach. The main skills we are developing this term are comparing and contrasting, asking questions and reasoning and persevering when we don't find the answer straight away.

We always try and pass on as much information as possible to the next teacher but if your child has any specific requirements regarding medical issues/ allergies/ permission for photos on our school website etc please come in and make sure we are up to date.

Please bear with us at home-time as we get to know you all, we have lots of new faces to recognise so please introduce yourself and remind us who you have come to collect.

If you have any worries, please don't wait for our parents evening in October but come and see us and we will try our best to find a convenient time to meet.

We look forward to working with your children over the coming year!

The Year 2 team.



To get the year started we are running a short topic on pets. The children will learn the process of researching and organising information to create non-fiction texts in different ways.

To support the children with this, we have organised a visit to Pets at Home on the morning of Tuesday 15th September. If you think you can help on this visit please come in and see us. We're hoping Mrs Sanders will also be bringing in some of her snakes and talking to the children about how she takes care of them. If you have any unusual pets you would like to talk to the children about please let us know.



On Monday 14th September we have a visit from the Fire Service to talk to the children about safety in the home.



October 11th is the International Day of the Girl Child. We are very lucky to be working directly with the charity, Plan UK, to develop a new project for primary schools linked to their "Because I am a Girl" campaign. We have written materials which we will trial and then share with schools all around the country.

During the week commencing 21st September we are going to run a project about the "Real Cinderellas". We already sponsor a little girl in Africa through Plan UK but we want to run a fundraising activity that week which specifically helps the charity in their work to support girls around the world. More details to follow on this...



Our main topic for the term is "**Space: To Infinity and Beyond!**"

This will start at the end of September and we are very excited about a visit to the school on Monday 12th October from Space Odyssey - a company who bring a huge planetarium to the school. It's the closest we could get to taking the children into space!

Some of you already know Mrs Brayley, our music teacher. She will be working in both year 2 classes this term (Mrs Robert's on a Monday PM and Mrs Ruddick's on a Tuesday PM) to teach recorders. If any of you had the opportunity to see the children at the Green Man Festival you'll know what an amazing teacher Mrs Brayley is and we look forward to her help with the Christmas production later in the term!

Literacy

As we reported at the meeting in the summer term, there are some major changes to the Year 2 curriculum this year with a real focus on grammar. Miss Roberts and Mrs Ruddick will be out on training about this and the new end of key stage assessments on 29th and 30th September. Once we know more about the changes to the Year 2 SATs we will let you know. If you are interested in attending some sessions about the aspects of grammar that are taught in Year 2, please let Mrs Ruddick know. If there is enough interest we may be able to run some parent sessions.

We will cover a range of text types over the term including non-fiction - information reports, poetry and fiction. We often use film clips as a stimulus for writing so if your child says they've been watching films in school there is a clear purpose for it!

Your child will read every week with a Year 2 teacher. Please bear with us while we review the groups over the next week or two.

Maths

We will revisit some Year 1 maths to secure place value (e.g. Knowing that the 2 in 24 is 20 and not 2) then work through the basic operations of addition and subtraction, moving onto multiplication and division once these are secure. We do as much of this as possible through problem solving. You can help at home by doing lots of counting up and back starting from any number (not always 0) and by asking your children to solve everyday problems e.g. If we all have 3 fish fingers each how many will we have altogether? How many packs will we need? The school has invested in Mathletics for all our Year 2s to use in school and at home. This is a very safe online tool for practising maths skills. Each child will be given their own log-in which the teachers will monitor. It's a fantastic site and as soon as we have this up and running we will provide you with more details.

Science

Our main investigation will be "What would life be like in space?" We will look into what living things need, forces such as gravity, light and dark and, of course, the Planets. Where possible we will teach science in a hands-on, investigative way. Space is such a fascinating topic, please share with us any learning you've done at home on the topic.

PE

The Year 2s are swimming this term and will also be learning new gymnastics skills. Please make sure the children have a full named PE kit in school every day.

Homework

Sometimes we ask for your support in extending our children's learning beyond school. We will let you know on a week by week basis. On weeks where we don't send any information home, the focus should be on reading and maths. There are details on the school website about how to help with spelling. We love to hear about learning experiences outside school so please encourage your child to bring in anything they've done at home. Thank you.

Humanities

In History and Geography we are learning about space travel and the features of the different planets. This links in closely with our Science. In RE we will be learning about a lot of the major festivals which occur throughout the Autumn.

The Arts

We always enjoy an arts week later in the term but our focus, to begin with, will be on observational drawing and modelling in DT. Mrs Brayley will teach recorders in Music.