

Year 2 Spring Term 2018 - Topic Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Happy New Year! This term we welcome a new teaching assistant in Year 2. Mrs King will work mornings in Class 6.

Our Topic this term is "Celebrations" and we will be focussing on China and Chinese New Year.

In English, we will be focussing on non-fiction texts about endangered animals. The children will write their own information texts about pandas and then an animal of their choice. To prepare for this, watch and enjoy some of the many wonderful nature programmes on TV.

In Maths, we will be securing our understanding of subtraction and how it relates to addition. Then there will be a big focus on multiplication and division, looking at counting in steps of 2, 5, 10 and 3 and representing this in different ways such arrays. This will then link to fractions of objects, numbers, shapes and quantities. We will also be looking at some statistics and measures and how to read different scales by investigating the weather in China.

Mrs Buckley will be teaching Music and RE. In Music, we will be discovering the world of Chinese music and looking at the pentatonic scale which is based on 5 notes. The children will be creating simple Chinese dragons and making Chinese sounding music on Glockenspiels for their dragons to move and dance to. In RE, the children will be learning about celebrations in different religions. We will be learning about Islam and Christianity, and finding out about their special places. This will include a visit to Pilton Church later this term.

In geography, we will be comparing Beijing and Barnstaple and learning the differences and similarities between the two cities, homes, schools and food. We hope to try some Chinese food using chopsticks later in the term - more information to follow.

In History, the children will learn about the Great Wall of China and answer questions about how and why it was built.

Our Science links with Design Technology this term where we are learning about materials and their properties. We will be looking at designing, making and evaluating bridges to meet different challenges using and different materials. We will explore how we can make strong structures out of 'weak' materials by using strong shapes.

In PE this term we will continue to develop key skills of coordination, balance and control through gymnastics activities whilst also developing our team working, tactics and ball control skills through games.

As always, we ask for your support in reading with your child and practising their spellings. You can help with maths by practising doubling and halving, counting up in 2s, 3s and 5s, and counting forwards and backwards in 10s from any 2-digit number.

If you have any questions about the term ahead please come in and see us.

Thanks,

Mr Mortimer, Mrs Buckley and Mrs Ruddick