



Welcome back! We have had a fabulous start to the year last half term and I am hoping to carry this on. We are linking our geography topic of *Magical Mapping*, to the books we are exploring in literacy this half term. I am excited to announce that the Christmas production this year will be one we have not done before called *Baubles*. I cannot wait for rehearsals to start! 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 naomi.hemingway@netherthongprimary.co.uk. Keep checking our class blog for updates on what we have been up to in class! Here is a link: <http://www.netherthongprimary.co.uk/our-classes/class-5-test-5/class-2-blog> Thank you, Miss Hemingway.

English

In our Literacy work this half term we will be reading a selection of Mairi Hedderwick's stories about Katie Morag and her family. We will be using these stories as a stimulus for our writing activities. These will include story, letter writing, postcards, character and setting descriptions and instruction writing. Try visiting your local library to borrow one of the Katie Morag stories to read at home. Please include any books that you read at home in reading records in addition to any supplied by school. Children do guided reading each day, and will therefore **need** their **reading book** and **reading records** in school **each day**.

Maths

In maths, we are going to be looking mainly at multiplication, division, length, mass and graphs. We will be introducing some new vocabulary, which can be located on the 2nd page. Reasoning and problem solving skills are going to be embedded throughout all maths lessons, details of what reasoning is in maths can be found on the 2nd page. I would like children to complete at least one page of Schofield and Sims when this is set as a homework task. Children can also access IXL to support their maths learning. See the 2nd page for advice on using IXL.

Art

In Art we will be learning about landscapes. We will look at how artists create their landscape art using different techniques and different media, including pencils, paint and pastels. The children will create their own landscapes.

Important Dates

- Key Stage One Christmas Performances – 18th and 19th December
- Family Sharing – 22nd November

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

Science and Computing

In science, we are going to be looking at animals including humans. Children will be learning about how humans and other animals are born, grow and change, and what we need to survive. Also they will be studying the life cycles of animals and plants. In computing, children are going to be learning about online safety as well as creating spreadsheets and using the information on there to create tables and block graphs.

RE/PSHE

In RE, we are going to be looking at how Christians and Muslims celebrate new life. Also, we are going to be looking at the festivals of Diwali and Christmas. In PSHE, we are going to be looking at keeping safe both inside school and in the real world.

PE

The children will be studying gymnastics developing their skills from the previous year, using our specialist equipment in school. Also, we will be looking at different games and the skills needed for them.

Topic

In geography, children will explore a range of maps at a local, national and global level, developing their understanding of how to navigate around an atlas to find key countries, continents, oceans and seas along with devising their own maps and routes. Children will learn how to 'view from above' looking at aerial photographs to spot human and physical features, understand simple map symbols and compass directions.

Other Information

Please can you ensure that PE kits are in school every day with suitable footwear for both outside and inside activities. Ear-rings must be taken out or covered in tape and long hair needs to be tied back. Homework should be handed in on Mondays and given back Tuesdays. Reading books **need** to be brought every day. Spelling tests are going to be on a Monday and new spelling sent out Tuesday.



Ways to help you child in Year 2:

New mathematical vocabulary – Autumn 2:

Odd, even, Count in twos, threes, fives, Count in tens (forwards from/backwards from), How many times? Lots of, groups of, Once, twice, three times, five times, Multiple of, times, multiply, multiply by, Repeated addition, Array, row, column, Double, halve, Share, share equally, Group in pairs, threes, etc. Equal groups of, Divide, divided by, left, left over.

Reasoning in maths

Reasoning enables children to make use of all their other mathematical skills and so reasoning could be thought of as the 'glue' which helps mathematics makes sense. It is fundamental to knowing and doing mathematics.

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>

I'd be really grateful if you would regularly read with your child/ren. **Reading is so important, not just for comprehension, but for 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. Ask the child questions about what they are reading and discuss the different grammatical features you see. They should begin pointing these out more as we cover them in class.

IXL is there to support the maths that we are learning in class, I do not expect your child to get 100 for each area that they have for homework, but I do expect them to put the time and work in. If a child is struggling with a certain concept, they can move to a lower year group to gain confidence before returning to their original year group. A link to IXL is here: <https://uk.ixl.com/>

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

There will be 10 spellings words to learn each week. These will be in their orange homework books, which I will expect them to bring in each Monday so their new spellings can be placed there.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Miss Hemingway and Miss Watkins