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(a partner in the SMILE Learning Trust)
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Monday 17th September 2018

Year 2 Autumn Term Curriculum newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Class 2. The children have now had over a week to settle into Class 2 and some new routines. The information below is a guide to inform you of some of the exciting learning opportunities that your child will be offered this term.

English-Reading: is crucial to develop skills across the curriculum therefore as a school we encourage children to read a wide range of material and regularly assess every child. The reading scheme is an essential part of this as it incorporates a variety of text types and levels within each colour band. Depending on the complexity and length of a text, books might not be completed on one night; please either write finished in the Reading Record book or the page number that your child has read up to and initial it each night. We do not encourage children to race through the scheme as we find fostering an environment where children read for pleasure produces better results and also develops their comprehension skills.

In our fiction work we will be looking at a range of stories and poems. In order to develop the children's understanding of inference and deduction there will be a strong emphasis on characterisation; the reasons why characters behave as they do. In our non-fiction work we will be looking at instructions and information texts.

The children will probably have their library session on Tuesdays. We have a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books which supplement the reading scheme. We endeavour to ensure the children choose books appropriate to their age but please let us know if there are any problems. Although we encourage independence, please remind your child to bring their book in each week to change or renew it.

English-Writing: There is a very heavy focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) in the Year 2 curriculum. The children will be taught specific grammar and spelling lessons but in order to continue to embrace creativity we will use stories and other texts as a starting point. The spelling and grammar work will link to homework activities so that the children get the opportunity to practise their skills.

Mathematics: This year we are continuing the Busy Ants scheme of work, produced by Collins. This scheme incorporates many problem solving elements in order to develop the children's understanding of the mechanics of maths and how it is used in real life situations. The children will begin by building on the number and place value knowledge and skills that they acquired in their previous two years. This will include improving mental recall of number facts to 10 and moving onto knowledge of number facts to 20 and 100. After half-term we will look at the concepts of multiplication and division. We will also be learning more about money, shape, length and time.



Science: Our first topic this term is 'Animals, including Humans'. We will be exploring a variety of different animal life cycles, the basic needs for growth and survival and why humans should exercise, eat healthily, have an understanding of food types and the importance of hygiene. We will also be investigating the growth of plants from bulbs.

Computing: Our timetabled slot is on a Tuesday afternoon. Children will be taught coding skills, information technology and digital literacy. The children have already had some experience in all of the areas of learning whilst they were in Year 1. Initially we will start with information technology to create, store and access work in order to evaluate alongside coding.

Geography: After half-term we will be finding out about the weather, seasons and different climates. Activities will explore the impact these can have on our daily lives.

History: 'My Family' will be our topic in history this half term. We will be exploring our family trees, creating timelines and comparing photographs of ourselves with other members of our family.

Religious Education: In our lessons the children will explore key beliefs and stories within Christianity and Judaism. They will be introduced to important ideas in religion and will explore the special place of story both in their own lives and within the lives of Christians and Jews.

As Christmas approaches we will look at the story of The Birth of Jesus, and explore the different ways in which the festival is celebrated.

Art and Design: Art work will be further developing the children's skills through our study of the works of art by the British artist, David Hockney. We will be exploring a wide variety of media such as drawing, collage, painting, and the use of computer technology. The children will also complete art & design activities linked to their history work.

Design Technology: Our main focus this term will be sewing, using more refined skills than those used previously, and attaching beads and sequins. As Christmas approaches we will create other three dimensional projects.

Music: Our focus will be on exploring pulse, rhythm and the duration of sound through singing, listening to music and the playing of instruments. After half term we will be starting our weekly recorder lessons in which we will learn to play pieces of music. Please can you therefore ensure that your child has their own recorder in school at all times.

P.E: We have 2 sessions of PE per week. In the first half-term the children will be in the village hall on a Wednesday afternoon where we will explore shapes, linking and balance in gymnastics and after half-term we will be outside playing mini-games using the appropriate skills. During our other session, on Fridays, we will begin outside by developing games skills and then after half-term the children will be taught dance by our returning dance teacher, Katie Murray. It is important that all pupils have PE kit in school every day in case there are changes due to weather etc. Children will need trainers and tracksuits for games as they are outside, and will be barefoot in the village hall.

In Class 2 there are new expectations of the children. There is a heavy focus on independence, both in learning and in social skills; this includes being responsible for their own belongings! We have spent some time discussing the school rules; therefore the children are expected to follow them in order to allow every child to learn in a safe and happy environment. We have also discussed being as neat as we can in our work

and always trying our best! As a class we have not yet discussed homework – except for reading every night with an adult.

This is a long term in which the children will get tired, but, if the early signs are anything to go by, they will enjoy the activities. Please keep an eye on the weekly newsletter to find out about important dates and events.

I hope this letter has proved useful. On Thursday 20th September we will have our meet the teacher evening, where I will provide more detail about assessment and homework. If you have any queries or questions in the meantime please let me know.

Yours Sincerely,

A. Joseph

Mr. A. Joseph

Class 2 Autumn Term English Targets.

Class Curricular Writing Targets:

Must: Write grammatically correct sentences – lower ability to rehearse in speech and on white boards. Ensure Capital Letters and full stops are correctly used to demarcate units of meaning.

Should: Use a range of sentence starters and adjectives to add interest to your writing. Begin to identify different sentence types and use ? ! and , in a list.

Could: Use different connectives to extend sentences and/or explain ideas.

Class Curricular Reading Targets:

Must: Phonetically blend 2 and 3 letters to read unfamiliar words.

Should : Read more complex texts fluently and retrieve information in order to answer comprehension questions.

Could: Use the style of an author to enhance your own writing.

Class Curricular Speaking and Listening Targets:

Must: To speak clearly in a sentence. Be able to listen to, and carry out a set of instructions. To answer questions with appropriate responses.

Should : Be able to listen to, and carry out a set of complex instructions then explain to less able peers what the instructions are.

Could: To clearly give an opinion in response to a debate. Speak clearly in a role play situation and analyse your contribution.

Class 2 Autumn Term Mathematics Targets.

Must

Know number bonds to 10.

Begin to know what each digit in a 2 digit number is worth eg in 24 the 2 is worth 20 and the 4 is worth 4 ones (units).

Apply this knowledge to problem solving activities

Should

Know number bonds to 20.

Know what each digit in a 2 digit number is worth including 0 as a place holder eg 20 needs 0 to show there are no ones (units).

Start to apply to knowledge of place value to solve simple one-step problems and be able to explain how the problem was solved.

Could

Know what each digit in a 3 digit number is worth including 0 as a place holder eg 204 needs 0 to show there are no tens.

Apply knowledge of place value to solve simple one-step and two-step problems and be able to explain how the problem was solved.