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**Headteacher: Cheryl Boulton**



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Class 2 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you enjoyed the summer break. As we are unable to have a 'meet the teacher' evening this year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Class 2. The children have settled quickly into their new class and routines, and have been brilliant at washing their hands regularly and socially distancing from other 'bubbles'. They have also shown lots of enthusiasm for learning. The information below includes some information I would normally have shared at 'meet the teacher' evening, as well as a guide to the learning opportunities your child will be offered this Term, which may differ from previous years.

In Class 2 there are new expectations of the children and a heavier focus on independence. We have spent some time discussing the school rules (both old and new); therefore the children are expected to follow them in order to allow every child to learn in a safe and happy environment.

The learning behaviours of motivation, independence, problem solving, resilience and cooperation will continue to be promoted and children exhibiting these throughout the week will receive a certificate at the end of it.

Our teaching assistant this year is Mrs Townsend. Mrs Totten will be teaching the children on Wednesday afternoons when I have my PPA time (Planning, Preparation and Assessment).

### Homework

Homework will be sent home on Thursday to be returned the following Tuesday. The children will receive their first set of homework on the third week of term (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September). This will include a maths worksheet, spellings and an extra activity on the MyMaths website. Maths homework will often be consolidation of work already learnt in class, especially if undertaken during the weekend. I would recommend trying to encourage the children to read questions for themselves (but of course ask if they get stuck on a word). A book will be sent home for the children to practise their spellings and use them in sentences. Reinforcing basic sentence construction is very beneficial for children at the start of Year 2 and has a positive effect throughout the whole curriculum.

More information about the homework, including the MyMaths login details and how to access the site, will be found in the homework books.

### Assessment

Due to the cancellation of the phonics screening check at the end of Year 1, this year it will be statutory for schools to administer a past version to all Year 2 pupils during the second half of the Autumn Term. There will be revision of Year 1 phonics in class but if you would like additional resources for your child to practise at home please let me know. Any children who do not pass in the Autumn term will retake the screening check with the current Year 1 class in June 2021.



The children will still be required to undertake their end of Key Stage 1 assessments (SATs) in May. These will include two maths papers (arithmetic and reasoning), two reading comprehension papers and a spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG) paper. The children will not be told these are tests. We begin practising in the Spring Term, which means by the time they come to do them they feel like part of a normal school week.

At the end of Key Stage 1, children are assessed in writing, reading and maths using the following criteria:

- Working at the expected standard
- Working at greater depth within the expected standard
- Working towards the expected standard

Although SATs can help inform assessments, ultimately they are teacher judgements based on evidence collected throughout the academic year. Your child's assessment will be included with their end of year report. SATs 'scores' are not included but can be requested.

Based on the curriculum framework children can be assessed at working at the expected standard or not in science but there is no further criteria.

In addition, the children will undertake in-school assessments in reading, writing and maths throughout the year. These are in place to monitor their progress through the key stages.

Extra information about assessments from the Standards and Testing Agency is included with this newsletter.

### **Reading Books**

Children will still be given books from the School's reading scheme this term but the need to quarantine books upon their return means that they will be given a book twice a week only (handed out on Monday to be returned by Wednesday and handed out on Wednesday to be returned by Friday). For this reason, supplementing the reading band books with those you have at home/from the local library would be hugely beneficial. The PTFA funded 'books for topics' (please see newsletter) will also be going home on Monday to be returned the following Monday.

### **Nativity**

I am really sad to inform you that, due to Covid restrictions, there will be no Christmas nativity this year. However, the children are due to have a class assembly in the Spring Term and hopefully this will still take place.

### **Curriculum Subjects**

#### **English:**

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 have opportunities for independent reading throughout the week, and on Fridays some children will take part in guided reading sessions within ability groups.

There is a very heavy focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG) in the Year 2 Curriculum which will be included as part of the children's English lessons.

**Phonics:** There will be a focus on phonics this term with the children spending 15-20 minutes in the morning revising Phase 5 phonics from Year 1, and 15-20 minutes in the afternoon introducing Phase 6 (year 2), which is linked to spelling rules (contractions, homophones, prefixes, suffixes etc.). The spelling homework will mostly be related to in class learning.

**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 have begun by building on number and place value skills. Other maths topics this term include more use of the four operations (addition, subtraction, division and multiplication), 2-D shapes, missing number problems, measurement (length), patterns, money, fractions and time.

**Science:** Our topic this term is 'Animals, including Humans.' We will be exploring a range 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.

**Computing:** Our timetabled slot is on Mondays. The children will be taught coding skills, information technology and digital literacy. In coding lessons, there will be an emphasis on what algorithms are and how they work. The children will also have a chance to practise the basic functions of a Word document such as creating, storing and accessing work, as well as printing and importing images. Digital literacy will be devoted to the importance of e-safety through stories.

**History:** Our topic this term is 'Toys' and the children will be learning about changes within living memory by exploring toys from today and the past. The children will develop their investigation skills and learn some common words and phrases related to the passing of time.

**Geography:** After half-term geography will take the place of history lessons. We will be finding out about the weather, seasons and different climates. Activities will explore the impact these can have on our daily lives.

**Religious Education:** In our lessons the children will explore the key beliefs and stories within Christianity and Islam. 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 Muslims.

As Christmas approaches we will be looking at the story of the birth of Jesus, and exploring the different ways in which the festival is celebrated.

**Art:** These lessons will further develop 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.

**Design Technology:** Our main task this term will be 'creating a sleigh for Santa with wheels'. This will help the children build up skills in building structures, and exploring how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable. The children will also have the chance to use mechanisms with their sleighs (wheels and axels). As you may have guessed, this will take place around Christmas time!

**Music:** After half-term we will be starting weekly recorder lessons (usually on a Monday) in which the children will learn about notation. Please can you therefore ensure that your child has a recorder to bring into school. I will send a letter out beforehand to remind everyone.

**PE:** 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 they will be learning to explore shapes, linking and balance in gymnastics with Mrs Totten. On Fridays, the children will be outside developing their attacking, defending and shooting within games. After half-term the children will be taught by our dance teacher, Katie Murray. It is important that pupils have a PE kit in school every day in case there are changes due to the weather. Children will need trainers and tracksuits for games as they are outside.

**PSHE:** This Term the children are due to learn about internal body parts, growing up and different emotions. There will also be many ‘one-off’ PSHE lessons devoted to the children’s needs.

### Useful Websites

West Hill pays for the children to access Purple Mash both at school and home, in order to develop their education in exciting and engaging ways. I have made a new account for each child in Class 2 (let me know if there’s any problems signing on!). Please type in [www.purplemash.com/sch/west-ex11](http://www.purplemash.com/sch/west-ex11) to reach the school portal page. The children’s login is the first initial of their first name followed by their surname (e.g. jbloggs). Their password is emu1.

[www.theschoolrun.com](http://www.theschoolrun.com) – really handy website. Includes clear guides about what children are taught in every area of the curriculum in school (has some nice resources as well).

[www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online](http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online) - website with Internet Safety tips for children.

[www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers) - website with Internet Safety guides for parents.

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. Please feel free to get in contact by email or phone if you wish to discuss anything.

Yours Sincerely,

*A. Joseph*

A.Joseph