

Year 2 Curriculum Letter
Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 2! This letter is to provide you with information about the work your child will be doing this Autumn Term.

Language and Literacy

The children will learn most of their formal English through the Ruth Miskin Literacy Programme (Read, Write Inc or Comprehension). Within this programme they will continue to learn how to read using phonics before moving onto reading longer texts in a whole class setting once they are fluent readers. Your child will continue to access high quality writing teaching each day ranging from editing sentences to writing diary entries and non-fiction texts. Every week your child will have the opportunity to visit the class library each **Monday**, where they can choose a book to share with you at home. Your child's reading diary should be used when reading at home and will be a useful form of communication between school and home.

The children are taught creative writing in their English groups. We will continue to encourage the children to improve their speaking and listening skills through lots of questions. This can be continued out of school in their home language.

Mathematics

This term, children will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Number system and Place Value through mental maths and lesson starters. The children will continue to learn times tables and these should be practised regularly at home. Finding fractions such as halves, quarters and thirds of amounts will be covered. Year 2 will be focusing on producing accurate measurements and describing shapes using mathematical language during Geometry lessons.

Non-Core Curriculum

Science

Throughout the Autumn term, children will be learning about *Living things and their Habitats*. This will include learning about the differences between things that are alive, were alive, and were never alive, and the seven life processes. Children will also be learning to recognise the adaptations different organisms demonstrate that make them appropriate for their habitat, and the features of a habitat. Finally, children will be learning about food-chains.

History

In History the children will learn about the ancient civilisations of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. They will explore the importance of these civilisations and the contribution they have

made to our modern culture and society. They will learn about significant individuals such as pharaohs and key features of their cultures and religion. They will understand how the invention of writing and the establishment of rules and laws were important to the development of civilization.

Geography

In Geography the children will begin to develop their geographical awareness through regular work with maps, globes and other geographical tools. The children will learn about the spatial layout of the school in greater detail and the local area. They will use aerial photographs to identify human and physical features and land use. They will develop spatial awareness by drawing basic maps and use the conventions of map making such as symbols, a key and colour coding.

Art

Building upon their study of Ancient Egypt, in Art the children will learn about the artwork of this great civilisation. They will learn about the Great Sphinx of Giza, the bust of Queen Nefertiti and the sarcophagus of Tutankhamun. They will examine the Rosetta Stone which was essential for the deciphering of hieroglyphics. The children will continue their study of the element of colour through primary and secondary colours. They will study and discuss the use of colour in artworks by famous artists such as Monet and Whistler.

Music

In Music the children will learn through activities that illustrate important musical concepts and terms, and will be introduced to introduce important composers and works. They will explore the concept of rhythm as the placement of sounds in time and as an ordered alternation of contrasting elements. Next they will study the orchestra which is an ensemble of different musical instruments. They will become familiar with the families of instruments in the orchestra and with famous orchestral pieces such as Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf.

PE

In gymnastics we will be focusing on basic skills and how to develop them into sequence involving two movements. In games lessons we will be exploring different ways of using a ball such as throwing and catching to develop basic game playing skills. We remind you that children need a yellow polo shirt, navy blue shorts, black or navy tracksuit bottoms and plimsolls for PE lessons. These should be kept in a drawstring bag and should all be labelled with your child's name.

PE lessons will be on a **Monday** and **Thursday** so therefore PE kits need to be in school on all of these days. Please remember that long hair should be tied back and **no jewellery** should be worn on PE days for safety reasons.

RE

This term, Year 2 will be learning about the symbols and iconography associated with different faiths. Religions based on similar principles will be explored. The children will begin to discuss the traditions surrounding Christmas and the giving and receiving of presents in a religious context.

Read Aloud

The Read Aloud 2017 initiative was launched in February 2017, and encourages children and their parents to read aloud for at least 15 minutes each day. Children will record the minutes they read each night on a sheet in their reading records, which will be sent home. Reading plays an integral part of your child's learning so get involved!

Homework

Following our change in policy, homework will not be sent home regularly each week. Some children may receive targeted homework, but most children will receive spellings and library books to take home. We encourage you to work together with them on these. If you are searching for additional tasks, please refer to your child's pupil profile targets for personal focus areas. Times tables are also a focus for the whole school, and practise at home really helps. Please make use of the childrens' Sumdog accounts.

Supporting your child's learning

There are many ways you can help support your child's learning at home:

- Listen to them read regularly
- Regular visits to the local library
- Simple mathematical questions
- Beginning to learn times tables.
- Discussions around what they have been doing in and out of school
- Web games
- Internet

Some useful websites: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/>
<http://www.mathszone.co.uk/>
<http://www.andrelleducation.co.uk>

Reminders

- It is essential you send a letter clearly stating who will be picking up your child if you are unable to. If it is short notice please contact the office directly. We will not be releasing children to any adults unknown to us, even if the child knows them.
- Please ensure we have current telephone and mobile numbers and the emergency contact details are up to date.
- Please ensure that your child brings their **book bag** and **water bottle** to school every day.
- It is a parents/carers responsibility to ensure a child is in school on time every day.
- Please ensure that school uniform is followed accurately. An essential list has been sent out but you can obtain one from the school office too.

We hope you find the above information useful, if you have any questions please feel free to approach one of us.

Miss Williams and Mr Antonis