

Engage, Enquire, Excel at Millfield

This newsletter is to give you an overview of what your child will be learning through engagement and enquiry over this half term.

Year 2

Welcome back!

Welcome back to a new school year and to Year 2! September is always a time of change, with new friends, new teachers, new classrooms, and we have been very impressed with how you have returned to your new classes and settled so quickly, especially with the different structure of our day.

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge

The Learning Challenge for this period will be 'Do all animals have skeletons?' This is a science based learning challenge and much of our learning will be directly linked to this. We know many of you are interested in animals and we can't wait to explore this learning with you. We will be borrowing some boxes of skeletons from one of the museums in Cambridge and will be following the children's enquiry of these.

English and Maths

English: This half term we are going to be looking at the book 'Funnybones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. During our writing we are going to initially focus on our must haves - finger spaces, letter formation, capital letters and full stops. By the end of this unit, we are going to retell one of the books in the series.

Maths: In maths we will be focusing on number and place value. As well as consolidating counting in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 from Year 1, we will begin counting in 3s. We will begin to recognise the place value of each digit in a two-digit number, and use a range of equipment to represent these numbers. We will compare and order numbers up to 100 and start to use the less than and more than signs.

The wider curriculum linked to our Learning Challenge: Do all animals have skeletons?'

Science Knowledge:

- Identify and name a variety of common animals that are birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates
- Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores
- Describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and invertebrates, and including pets)
- Identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense

- Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults
- Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)
- Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

Science Skills:

- Raise their own simple questions about the world around them and begin to recognise ways to answer them.
- Experience different types of science enquiries including practical activities.
- Carry out simple tests.
- Use simple features to compare objects, materials and living things, and with support decide how to classify them.
- Begin to notice patterns and changes.
- Use equipment to make observations and to gather and record data.
- Use observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions.
- Talk about what they have found out and how they found it out.
- Communicate findings in a range of ways and begin to use simple scientific language.

Other subjects within the wider curriculum

Music: This half term we will be focusing on pulse, rhythm and pitch when listening to music, singing songs and playing instruments (boomwhackers and untuned percussion). We will listen to 'Carnival of the Animals' and compare the different musical styles used in the pieces and will also listen to other styles of music including jazz, rock and pop. We will explore 'musical conversations' using voices and instruments.

PE: Thursday's PE will be circuits and is taught by a specialist PE coach. Additionally 2A will have PE on Fridays and 2S will have PE on Tuesdays. The PE for this half term will be Gymnastics. Please ensure you have your indoor and outdoor PE kit in school all week. Children are NOT allowed to wear any jewelry during PE lessons, this includes ear rings. Your child must be able to remove these themselves or taken out at home for the day.

Art: We will be focusing on drawing skills and the different marks we can make with pencils.

PSHE and Circle time: Our PSHE focus will be 'Managing Change' where we will think about how we have changed, how to cope with change and name emotions that we may feel when going through changes.

Useful Information

Home Learning: Home learning will be sent home on a Friday and is due the following Friday.

Reading: Children will be bringing home a reading book either based on a colour or on a ZPD (reading range). Reading records will be sent home on a Friday and are expected back the following Friday. It is beneficial for children to re-read a story to ensure they have fully understood it before changing their book. Please try to read with your child daily.

Useful websites- for both children and parents

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> - Phonics games

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - Number bond game

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/ks1> - KS1 book suggestions

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6882hv> - BBC Bitesize Animals

E-safety: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - Stay safe online