

Engage, Enquire, Excel at Millfield

Year 2

Welcome back!

Welcome back to a new school year! It's been so long since we have seen some of you. We're really glad to see you all back safe and well. 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.

Engagement and Enquiry through our Learning Challenge

The Learning Challenge for this period will be 'How do seeds become plants?' This is a science based learning challenge and much of our learning will be directly linked to this. We know many of you were keen gardeners over lock down and we can't wait to explore this learning with you. We will be spending time outside the classroom to support our learning and to encourage children to enquire about their surroundings. Our learning will then be focused on the questions that arise with the children.

English and Maths

English: This half term we are going to be looking at the book 'I Really Wonder What Plant I'm Growing' by Lauren Child. 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 have designed our own imaginative plant and describe it using adjectives.

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: 'How do seeds become plants?'

Science Knowledge:

- Identify and name a variety of common garden and wild plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees.
- Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.
- Observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants.
- Find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.

Science Skills:

- Raise 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 South African music, finding the pulse, and copying rhythms. We will be singing and composing simple melodies.

PE: Thursday's PE will be circuits and is taught by a specialist PE coach. Friday's PE will be Gymnastics.

Art: We will be focusing on printing skills and using natural materials to make patterns.

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 in the following Thursday.

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.

PE: PE lessons will be taught on Thursday and Friday. Please ensure you have your indoor and outdoor PE kit in school all week.

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.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpxnyrd> - Plants

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

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