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Wednesday 9th January, 2019

Year 2 - Class Newsletter - Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday!

Happy New Year!

Some dates for your information/diaries:

Year 2 Parents' Information session by Mr. MacBean

Friday 18th January, 9.00am in the Year 2 Classroom.

Parents' Consultation Sessions

Tuesday 5th February 3.40pm - 5.30pm and Wednesday 6th February 5.20pm - 7.50pm. This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's work.

Science Week

Week commencing Monday 11th February 2019. Theme = Eco.

INSET Day

Friday 15th February 2019 / No school for children.

HALF TERM BREAK

Week Commencing Monday 18th February 2019.

POWSA Bingo

Friday 1st March

Book Week

Week commencing Monday 4th March

World Book Day

Thursday 7th March (Book character costume will be required.)



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Our **Year 2 Class Assembly** is on Friday 15th March at 9.20 am in the school hall.

“Big Pedal” Fortnight - national competition to promote cycling and scootering to school. This starts on Monday 25th March (with **“Bike-It-Breakfast”** on Monday 25th March.)

Y2 Visit to St. Mary’s Church, Dorchester – week of 1st April / date to be arranged

Easter Break – Week commencing Monday 8th April 2019.

Back to School

Tuesday 23rd April 2019.

Year Two Curriculum – Spring Term

Reading

The development of reading remains a very high priority in what we do in Year 2.

We continue to adopt various organisational approaches:

Individual Reading using “Accelerated Reader Scheme”- The children must have their individual books from the **“Accelerated Reader Scheme”**. These are collected independently by the children from the school library and are to be taken home. These are the books that make up your child’s regular home reading and should be kept in their book bags. These are coded according to the level of challenge that they present. The children should be aware of their appropriate selection basket. These books should be changed by the children when necessary after the children have taken the online quiz for that particular text. They will have opportunities to change books during the school day (such as before register, at break time and at lunch time). There will also be regular occasions when a member of the Year Two Team will talk to your child about the books they have been reading and the quizzes that they have taken. We are able to monitor their completion of quizzes using the online system and see how well they are doing.

Whole Class Texts – We will be working on selected texts as a whole class. There will be differentiation of activities according to children’s needs and levels of ability.

Library Books - The children can choose a non-fiction book from the Library each week. They will have an opportunity to change or renew this during the week. This is a free choice to reflect their personal interests. The children can check books in and out using the electronic library system.

Punctuation, Grammar and Vocabulary - We will be working hard to develop the children’s use of punctuation, grammar and vocabulary in accordance with the key objectives outlined in the National Curriculum and seen as key targets for children in Year 2.

This will underpin all of the work that we do in our English lessons. There will be weekly lessons designed to explicitly focus on different elements of this.



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Handwriting - We are having a very specific focus on the development of neat handwriting and the effective presentation of written work. We will be employing a range of strategies for this. We hope that you are already able to see good progress in your child's handwriting development over the course of the Autumn Term. Some children will have an opportunity for additional support with this within an "intervention group".

Mathematics - Mathematics is given very high priority. It is taught every day. I will keep you informed of which particular areas we are covering through frequent "Blogs". Please encourage the use of "Mathletics" at home and the new "Time Table Rock Stars" online resource that we are launching soon.

Topic Work - In the first half-term term, we will be learning about "Myths and Legends", starting with those from ancient Greece. We will also be looking at myths and legends from other countries of origin. This topic will also drive some of our D.T. and Art activities.

In the second half-term we will be using the theme of "India" as a context to deliver various areas of the curriculum.

Science - First half-term – Materials: Learning to identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.

Second half-term – The importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.

Geography - Learning to name and locate the continents of the World on a World map. Looking at different climates in different parts of the World.

R.E. topic work using the "Discovery R.E. Scheme". This term covers elements of Christianity, Hinduism and Islam.

Music - Using the "Charanga" scheme.

P.H.S.E. - Using the Jigsaw Scheme

First half-term - Dreams and Goals

Second half-term - Healthy Me

PE - Please could you ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school. As the weather is colder this term we would also like the children to have the option of wearing trainers and tracksuit bottoms for outside PE.

Our PE sessions take place on Monday (with Mrs. Hall) and Wednesday afternoons (with visiting cricket coach Mr. James Mitchell).

Home Learning

I will be continuing to encourage the children to do some "Home Learning" every week. This will take the form of finishing off a piece of writing which has been started in school, doing some research or having a go at a



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Mathematics activity. This will now be set and sent out on Wednesdays. This will also be put onto a “blog” on the Wednesday.

The children are also encouraged to enjoy using “**Mathletics**” and (new this term) “**Times Table Rock Stars**”.

Please remind and encourage children to take the quizzes for their “**Accelerated Reader**” challenge.

In addition to this, we will continue to send the children home with texts and spellings relating to their “**Read, Write Inc**” group.

Snacks and Water

We are keen that the children have a healthy snack at Break Time. We would like to positively encourage healthy snacks, so no sweets or crisps please. Your child should put his/her snack in the “Snack Tray” when they arrive at school.

We are keen that the children should have access to water in the classroom, as there is much evidence to support the idea that this helps them to learn. Please give your child a named water container. This can stay at school and they can top it up in the Servery when necessary. This can be separate to the drink that you provide for their lunch, which might be something other than water, such as a fruit juice.

Communication between School and Parents (Year Two)

Please feel that you can approach any of the Year 2 Team to discuss any issues, worries, concerns that you may have when you drop off and pick up your child. If you would like to arrange a more detailed or confidential chat with me, then I would be very happy to make an appointment to do so. From my experience it is always better to deal with any concerns as quickly as possible rather than wait until the Parents Consultation Evenings.

Blogs

I will write regular “blogs” on the school website. These will be brief details of what we have been up to in class, and comments about what things will be coming up soon. I will also blog the “home learning” activity that I have suggested to the children. The class blog is on the school website at: <http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>.

To view these go to the “Year Two “section of the “Parents’ Page” on the website. Please feel free to comment of these blogs on the webpage.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D. MacBean
Year 2 Class Teacher



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