



# Year 2SM Spring 1 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! This is a special year as we enter a new decade, it's 2020! Our topic this half term is **It's 2020! Welcome to Japan.** It is a Leap Year and the Olympic games. With so much happening leading up to the games in the summer, it seemed ideal to link our Geography unit focussing on a non-European country, to the culturally interesting country of Japan, in the continent of Asia.



## Geographers

Our topic will focus on geographical skills. We will be making comparisons between our country here in England, to that of Japan. We will also, explore human and physical geography, exploring how the country's location impacts many factors such as where people live and what they do and include how factors influence what the country produces and is used by the people who live there.



## Literacy

For the start of the term we will be learning about playscripts. We will understand the format of how playscripts are written and enjoy reading and acting out the parts of different characters.

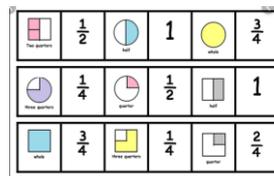
*Oh, Gnome!*  
a play by Lou Kuenzler  
Denton Community Hall  
Saturday, 3 March – 2.30 p.m.  
Tickets – Children £2  
Adults £3.50

*"We loved Jerome the gnome!  
A 'must see' play!" Denton Daily*

From this, our non-fiction piece will focus on persuasive writing. Here, we will explore how advertisements use various styles, such as specially selected language and music pieces to generate interest in what they have to offer.

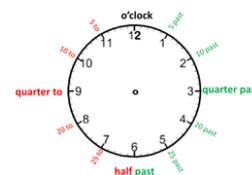
## Maths

Last term we excelled as a class in learning our 3 and 4 timetables; this has resulted in us making great advancements in completing further challenges.



This term we will focus on extending some of these skill to our new unit on fractions. We will be introduced to written and numerical forms of fractions, comparing sizes, shading and drawing and begin to find fractions of an amount.

Following this we will move on to focus on learning how to tell the time.





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## Reading and Comprehension

Reading a variety of genres and learning many skills in being able to respond to questions about reading, is our key focus.



Last half term, the children were introduced into how to read a text and pick apart key parts within a question to determine what type of skills they need to apply in order to make an informed response.

Each day, after lunch, we spend at least thirty minutes undertaking a variety of reading activities. We read a varied genre of books, making links with other subject areas such as science, history and geography as well as titles suggested as part of our Language and Literacy programme.

An adult will listen to your child read at least once a fortnight. During these sessions your child will be asked a variety of questions, developing skills in interpreting texts and pictures. These are essential transferrable skills when undertaking independent tasks across the curriculum, responding to texts.

Reading at home is a very valuable support for your child. This regular reading at home will help improve your child's learning in all subjects. Please write a comment in their Reading Record Book and initial it.

When listening to your child read, just reading the words is not evidence of your

child's understanding. Interact with the text; ask them questions about what they are reading; *What do you think might happen? How do they feel? What does this word mean?*

## Scientists

As Scientists this half term we will explore **Materials** identifying and comparing the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.

We will find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.

## Spiritual Thinkers

In Religious Education we focus on a key question each half term which will require children to use deeper thinking to answer it. This term our Big Question is '**What is special to faith communities?**' This, along with our unit focus of '**What does it mean to be a Muslim?**' Our school educational visit takes us to a mosque, where we will have our own private insight into some Islamic practices and expectations.

## Forth coming events

### Parent Consultation Evening

Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 January 2019

### Close for half term –

Friday 14 February 2020

### Re-open

Monday 24 February 2020





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## INVESTORS IN PUPILS

As part of our continued whole-school initiative to drive forward our aim to ensure our pupils are fully-rounded, not only in academics but as active contributors as global citizens, in 2SM we have looked at how we are ensuring that each and every one of us is taking on an active part in our own development, make contributions to school life and also as part of our extended community.

### Remember our Soldiers

To link in with our understanding of British Values, last half term we were fortunate to have a visit to our class from Corporal Hussain. She is a Cadet in the armed forces and is an ex-pupil of Bankfoot Primary school. She informed us on some of the activities she does when at Cadets and showed us some of her marching drills. We found out a lot from her when she answered our many questions.



### Class Points

When we receive **20 points** on our **class reward chart** we can have a class reward. On the last day of term last before the Christmas break, we held our Class Points Party by coming to school in our pyjamas. We had so much fun; we went to the hall to play some party games, decorated biscuits for us to eat, and watched a festive movie.



### Attendance



We were extremely pleased to hear that our class had the most pupils last term who were at school every day. We know that we can't help it if we are ill or have important appointments to attend and we have all tried to be at school as much as possible, and on time. As a result, our overall attendance as a class has been outstanding! Congratulations to everyone who attended the special trip to Insane Air as their 100% attendance reward. We are keen to continue to hold first place this coming term and hope that more of our class will be commended for being at school each day.



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## Fundraising



We have been given a **budget of £75** and aim to make a profit on this.

This term we take on the role of becoming a fund-raising class. After some thought, an idea that should embrace the whole school has been decided. The aim is for us to link in our fundraising campaign with our literacy unit on advertising. We will be selecting persuasive language to design posters to encourage the rest of our school to want to buy our special product.

We are hoping that our campaign will reach the wider school community: we hope that adults show active interest and spread the word to other family members who might be interested with what we have on offer.

This is a great opportunity for our class to get involved in so many aspects of this fund-raising campaign including designing, marketing, costing, creating orders, calculating and distribution of the final product.

In groups, the children will be allocated a class to work with. With this they will work with the same class to go through all areas of the process outlined.

