

Spring Newsletter Year 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term. I hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for my Christmas gifts. I had a lot of fun opening them.

Our topic this term is 'Towers and Turrets'. In class, our reading will focus on traditional tales set in castles and some alternatives to these. Traditional tales have a similar story pattern, so the more tales children experience, the more familiar they are with the language and pattern of this narrative form of writing. Experience, could mean reading to themselves, reading to an adult or listening to a tale. We will be writing our own traditional tales so the more familiar the better! I wonder, how many traditional tales the children will be able to name. What about traditional tales set in non-European countries?

We will be learning about 'The Great Fire of London' during the dramatic Stuart period of history. Famous people from this time include: Samuel Pepys, Pocahontas, Sir Christopher Wren and Isaac Newton. On Wednesday 9th January, Year 2 are taking part in a 'Great Fire of London' workshop. This has been very successful in previous years and we will use the experience to inspire our learning and writing for several weeks afterwards.

In maths we will be continuing with our tables - 2x, 5x 10x and 3x tables. Year 2 children now have individual logins for Times Tables Rock stars. This is a website for the children to log in to in order to practise and challenge themselves on their times tables as well as being a fun way to learn. At home, you may want to practise doubling and halving numbers to **20** for example half of **18** is 9 and double **16** is 32. We will be learning to identify and classify 3D shapes. Please encourage your child to practise telling the time to the nearest five minutes on an analogue clock. In class, we will be starting with o'clock, half past, quarter to and past, first.

The children have enjoyed using the Prodigy game to practise their maths skills. Their usernames and passwords will be sent home soon so that they can use Prodigy at home. It is important that the tasks on Prodigy are completed independently, as the program is constantly monitoring and adjusting according to individual performance.

For maths games try these websites:

<https://ttrockstars.com/>

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/

<http://mathszone.co.uk/>

Have a look at our class web page for Top Marks maths games link with lots of maths learning games to try.

In science, we will be looking at materials such as metal, glass, wood, plastic, fabric and paper. We find out about their uses as well as their properties. We will be turning liquids into solids and vice versa. This BBC clip is useful if you would like to discuss materials with your child.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/z7qd7ty>

Homework

Guided Reading and Spelling homework will be sent home on Fridays and returned the following Wednesday please. There may also be maths consolidation questions depending on the topic we are studying or perhaps a request to spend 20 minutes of Prodigy.

Water

Children may bring in named bottles of water each day so long as the bottle has a secure lid. These should be taken home every night for washing and refilling. No juice please.

Please try to make sure that all your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name. Any lost property can then be easily identified.

PE

For the first half term, we are lucky to have Ben Tomlinson teaching cricket skills on Tuesday afternoons outside. We will try to go outside as much as possible on Fridays as well, weather permitting. Please ensure your child has their kit in school on the correct days. Kits should be taken home at the end of each half term for washing or before, if they become dirty. Named track suits or leggings and warm hoodies may be sent in during cold weather.

In the mornings, registers are taken at 9.00 but children are encouraged to be in school from 8.50 to take part in classroom activities. Children arriving after 9.00 are asked to enter school through the main door. Children are collected from the classroom door at 3.15.

If you have any queries or questions throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you are unable to come into school, please use the home school planner as a means of communication. Key Stage 1 SATs will take place during May. I will hold an 'open house' style session after February half term so that you can see past papers and ask any questions you may have, details to follow.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Weatherby