

Spring Term Newsletter

Dear parents and carers of Year 2,

Happy New Year. Thank you for all the thoughtful Christmas wishes; I hope you had a lovely break with your families. I enjoyed being back in school last week and am looking forward to building on the fantastic learning and enthusiasm that the class demonstrated last term.

I am disappointed to have to tell you that I have been unable to rearrange the trip to the Swiss Tulle factory as due to the Covid situation, they are not currently opening their doors to visitors. However, they are keen to have us in as soon as possible so I will keep in touch with them and let you know as soon as we are able rearrange a date.

PE

Year 2 will continue to have PE on Tuesday with Mrs Churchill and on Thursday with Mr Bulbeck. It has worked well with kits coming in on Monday and going home on Thursday. Please ensure that all items are labelled.

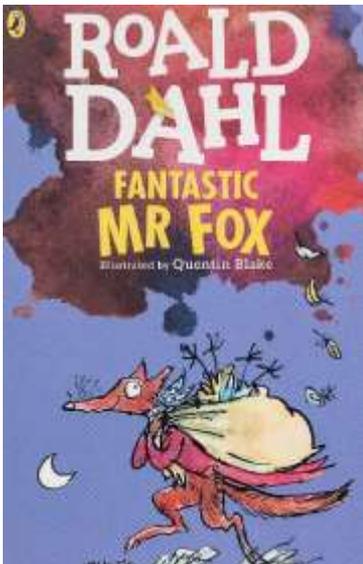
English

The children have been making fantastic progress in their reading, and are becoming increasingly confident in decoding new words. They love story time and talking about the books we read together. We are going to be really focusing on **fluency** as a whole class now, which means we will be reading lots of short texts, including poems, repeatedly together. Fluency is best supported through:

- regularly hearing what fluent reading sounds like. This is why reading to your child each day is just as important as hearing them read.

- repeated reading of the same words and texts. Children should read their phonics books from the lesson and their book bag books at least twice at home, ideally more. You will notice how they become more fluent with each read.
- enjoyment and understanding of what they are reading. Praise your child when they make an attempt to read with expression, e.g. "I love how you read that in a scared voice," or "You read all those words without using Fred Talk. It was so good to listen to!"

The children's book bag books will be changed on a Monday and Thursday, but please send in their reading record and books every day whenever possible in case of change to routine or so that an adult can hear them read when available. They can always change their books on another day if they have already read them several times or missed the changeover day, in which case send them in with their books and reading record in hand so they can pass them straight to me for changing when they come in. As well as the book that matches their group colour, some children will also bring home an easier book to help support their fluency.



I am very excited about our new class reader, as I know the children are going to love it: *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl. It would be great to share another Roald Dahl book with your child at home so they can experience more of his books; *Esio Trot*, *The Twits*, *The Enormous Crocodile* or *George's Marvellous Medicine* are particularly good for this age group. We have copies of these books in the school library, so let me know if your child would like me to help them find one.

We will continue to practise spellings on a daily basis; learning spellings supports the children's phonics and vice versa. Please encourage and support your children in using Spelling Frame to practise.

Maths

We will continue to have a **daily maths** lesson. We have also been having a daily 'mini-maths' session during which the children are building a deep understanding and knowledge of one-digit numbers, which will support them in moving forwards confidently in maths. They have enjoyed using the **rekenreks** that we have for each child in class; you can find an online version here:

<https://mathsbot.com/manipulatives/rekenrek> if you would like to have a look and ask your child to tell you about it.

This term, we will learn about and practise:

- subtraction using one and two-digit numbers
- making equal groups and arrays, leading on to multiplication
- making doubles
- the 2-, 5- and 10-times tables
- odd and even numbers
- dividing by 2, 5 and 10
- naming, making and recognising the qualities of 2D and 3D shapes
- statistics: tally charts. We will practise using and interpreting these in the wider curriculum to support our maths learning.

On Teams, there will continue to be a maths video and a worksheet set as an Assignment every two weeks (set on a Friday with two weeks to complete). Thank you to everyone who has supported their child with this at home; it has been great to see their work. The dates that maths homework will be set on Teams this term are as follows: 14th January, 28th January, 11th February, 4th March, 18th March, 1st April.

Science

In science this half term, we will be examining and comparing a variety of seeds and bulbs as part of our learning about plants. Some of the children have already begun to bring in seed heads that they have found out and about so we are building up a collection. We will



be planting in the school grounds and in pots as well, so if you have any unwanted seeds at home please send them in. Last term, we started to investigate the qualities of different materials and focussed on how absorbent various materials are. We will use what we learnt to investigate the suitability of materials for different products.

History, Geography and RE

This half-term we will be learning about the UK, continents and oceans. We will practise using locational language such as compass directions and referring to the equator. We will explore some human and physical features of different continents, including Antarctica.

Later this term, in history, we will be learning about Mary Anning and are hoping to be able to visit the museum in Lyme Regis.

In RE, we will be learning about religious practices and lifestyle by asking "What is the importance of Torah, the star of David and the celebrations of Shabbat to Jews?"

Music, DT and Art

In music lessons this half-term, we will be learning about orchestral instruments.

In DT, we will be exploring, investigating and designing wheel and axle mechanisms.

In Art, we will be exploring colour through paint and collage and will be learning to draw cartoon faces inspired by David Tazzyman.



PSHE

In the first half-term, our PSHE topic is "Keeping Myself Safe", and we will be thinking about how to manage risks and keep ourselves safe, including teaching the children about the

importance of knowing who and how to tell if they feel anxious or uncomfortable about something, including being asked to keep secrets and inappropriate touching. In the second half-term, we will be covering "Rights and Responsibilities," and will ensure that the children know some calm-down techniques. We will also cover relevant PSHE topics as and when any issues arise in class or at playtimes.

Thank you for your continued support: I feel very lucky to be part of such a lovely class.

Mrs Whiffin

Beech Class