

Dear parents and carers of Year 2,

Wishing you all a Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely break with your families. It has been great to welcome the children back to school and I am really looking forward to building on the fantastic learning and enthusiasm that the class demonstrated last term.

Phonics/Writing (English)

The children have been making fantastic progress in their reading, and are becoming increasingly confident in decoding new words. They love using our reading bookcase (where after they've read a book they can leave a review) and share these with friends. 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!"

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 SpellingFrame or their spelling books to practise. A sheet of ideas for how to practise spellings has previously been sent home – please do ask if you would like another copy. SpellingFrame this term includes 10 High Frequency words (that will be changed fortnightly) and KS1 Geographic Vocabulary that we will be referencing in our topic work. This is in addition to the Red Word (words that you cannot sound out) Bookmarks the children have. These will be updated shortly.

The children's book bag books will be changed on a Tuesday 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 put them straight in the pink reading record tray for changing when they come in.

Pink, Yellow and Blue Groups should be bringing home:

- a 'book bag book'.
- A copy of their current phonics story book.

Comprehension Group should bring home:

- A book based on reading scores from Accelerated Reader (once they have been assessed).

We are shortly about to start our new class reader: *The Mousehole Cat* by Antonia Barber and Nicola Bayley. We will be focusing in smaller groups how we can make predictions and further our reading skills by summarising and inferring about the what the author has written.

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 the composition and qualities of one-digit numbers, which will support them to make confident calculations and with their understanding of new concepts as we move forward in Maths.

This term, we will continue to practise:

- addition and subtraction crossing a tens number.

In multiplication and division, we will be learning to:

- make equal groups and arrays, leading on to multiplication.
- double and halve numbers.
- the 2-, 5- and 10-times tables.
- divide by 2, 5 and 10.

We then will start to learn about using money, measurement (including length and mass) before Summer Term.

Topic

Our topic for this half term focuses on a region in India, and comparing similarities and differences to where we live in Somerset. We will use our previous mapping knowledge to locate the country, learn about localised weather and what the region looks like from agricultural and socio-economical perspectives. This subject will link directly to our writing unit, where we will be learning about the effects of unsustainable farming of palm oil on the animal populations in India through the book: *There's a Rang-tan in My Bedroom*. We will learn how to write a letter to get our thoughts and feelings across in a structured way.

History next half term will start with a trip to Lyme Regis Museum to learn about Mary Anning. We will then focus on her work in palaeontology, for the local community and consequences of her findings.

PE

Year 2 will continue to have PE on Tuesdays and Fridays with Mrs Churchill and myself. Please bring kits in on a Monday so that we have them in school in case of any changes. Please do ensure that all items are labelled, as I cannot return items without names.

Science

Science this term will focus on what animals and humans need in order to survive. We will be thinking about fundamentals of habitats for both, and this will also tie in nicely with our topic work on India.

RE and Art (Music and DT)

RE looks at Christianity this term. In particular, who God is (to Christians) and how similar 'He' may be to other religions we have learnt about so far. In Art, we are focusing on colour mixing through the style of Chris Ofili, an award-winning painter from Manchester. We will be using the 'Bugfest' experience on the 31st January 2024 to embody our work and gather ideas for our project. Spring 2 will see us focusing on dynamics and tempo, and DT will look at wheels and axels.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any questions.

Many thanks,

Mr Park

Key dates for parents:

- Wednesday 31st January 2024 - Bugfest (Indian vertebrates experience). Animal specialist bringing in vertebrates found in India.
- Thursday 22nd February 2024 - Lyme Regis Museum (Mary Anning).
- Thursday 25th April 2024 - Sea Life Weymouth (Continents and Oceans).