

Welcome back to everyone and welcome to Year 2. I hope you and your children are well rested and ready for the new term and school year. The following is an overview of this term's planning which will be added to as the term progresses according to the interests and needs of the children.

As you may be aware, children will be taking their SATs in May 2018 based on the old curriculum. Throughout the academic year the children will be completing practise SAT papers (reading, writing, SPAG and maths) We do this for a variety of reasons e.g. the papers are not so scary if they have been practised, they give accurate levels, they identify gaps in learning which will help guide future lessons etc.



English / Literacy/ Phonics

In year 2 we recap all the literacy genres covered in Key Stage 1. Children will receive dedicated phonics sessions to develop strategies for reading and spelling. They will read on an individual basis with the Class Teacher and/or Teaching Assistant. There will be a weekly Guided Reading session where the children will read a text in a group situation and develop comprehension skills. Children's writing will be developed through poetry, information writing and story writing as well as writing through other areas of the curriculum. Speaking, listening and responding will be developed through class and individual discussion, drama, explaining what they are doing and by using 'talk partners'.



Maths / Numeracy

Mathematics will continue to be taught on a daily basis. Children will experience solving problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication or division in contexts of numbers, measures or pounds and pence. We will be working with numbers up to 1000.

They will be encouraged and taught to explain their decisions, methods and results in different ways using mathematical language and number sentences.

Children will be ordering, estimating, finding a half and quarter of shapes and sets of objects. They will extend their understanding of 2d and 3d shape, pattern, measures and data handling.



Science

We will be starting the term with a topic relating to grouping and changing materials. The children will learn to distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. They will learn about some of the ways materials can be changed and that heating can cause changes which produce materials which are often useful.

They will experience using tables and graphs to show our results in a range of ways e.g. hand drawn and using ICT.



Computing

During the term the children will learn to draft, save, locate, edit and improve word-based texts, using simple tools and techniques. They will be introduced to a range of programs to capture still and moving images. The children will explore texts, identifying the differences between digital and non-digital images and use painting/ graphic software to experiment with different techniques. With support they will create a short animation linked to other curricular areas.

Humanities



We begin the Autumn term with a topic relating to The Great Fire of London. The unit shares information about Famous people and events in History e.g. The Great Fire of London, Guy Fawkes and Samuel Pepys. The children will be learning about why people in the past acted as they did and any effect it has on our lives today. Children develop their sense of chronology and consider why the Great Fire happened; its results; and the different ways it is represented.



In Design and Technology we will be designing and making moving dragons. The children will make simple drawings and label parts. They will be encouraged to develop design ideas through discussion, observation and drawing and how to apply what they have learned in short focused tasks to assemble, join and combine materials to make moving parts. Children will also be making a Tudor house and recreating Pudding Lane.



We will also investigate a range of materials and techniques on the theme of fire and dragons in art sessions. This will include painting, printing, collage and 3d work. The children will be encouraged to work from their own ideas and imagination and evaluate their efforts.



There will be games/ dance and gymnastics sessions each week. The children will be improving their ability to listen and follow instructions, copy and create movements. There will be opportunities for individual and paired/ group work. There will be a greater emphasis on evaluating and observing one another.

Weekly RE lessons concentrating on Signs and Symbols followed by the celebration of Christmas.

Reminders

- Mrs. Jeffrey will be teaching the class one day a week. The children will be continuing their **music lessons** with Mr. Mitchell when they will be working on listening, composing and performing, **French** lessons will also resume with Madame Bruce.
- We have **PE** on Monday and a Thursday however PE kits should be in school every day. Your child will need navy shorts and a jade t-shirt for indoor PE and suitable warmer clothing for outdoor PE e.g. plain jogging trousers and sweatshirt. They will also need suitable shoes for outdoor PE, e.g. trainers, as plimsolls are only to be worn indoors. Please provide suitable hair bands to tie back long hair. Should your child have pierced ears, tape must be provided to cover the earrings during PE times in accordance with Herts Health and Safety rules.
- Please ensure that your child has correct **school uniform** including dark plimsolls and plain socks. Refer to the School Newsletter to remind you about rules regarding school uniform. Many items are available at the office. Please also name all items of clothing and equipment. Nail varnish and tattoos should not be worn at school and reminders will be given to remove them if the case arises. Girls should wear suitable hair bands for school.
- **Book Bags** should be in school every day as there are daily opportunities to read alone, with a friend, with Mrs. Deacon or with the teacher. Endeavour to spend about 5 - 10 minutes each day reading with / to your child and practicing any key words. Please ensure you write in the Reading Record as an indication to me about how much your child has read. Your child is required to read at least three times a week at home and this needs to be recorded in the home/school reading record. Children who have not read 3 times a week will be required to stay in at playtime and make up the reading session. Reading records will be checked on a Friday and your child will get a sticker if they have read 5 times, 5 stickers = a prize. It is up to the parents to ensure this reading takes place as the class teacher will not assume the child has read if there are no entries in the home/school reading record.
- Please **check book bags daily** for letters / notes and remove them to keep the contents to a minimum.
- Thank you for your co-operation in **not coming into the classroom with your child in the morning**. If you need to talk to me for any reason, either attract my attention while your child is lining up outside the classroom or if it is not urgent, make an appointment to see me after school.
- Please provide your child with a **water bottle** for use in the classroom (it should not contain flavoured water/juice or squash). As a 'Healthy School' we want to promote water as the best drink through the day.
- **Homework** is given out on a Thursday to be handed in the following Tuesday. Your support and feedback are valued. The tasks will be short and manageable (no more than 15 minutes at a time should be taken to complete a homework task although some tasks may need to be revisited on other days.) Your child will lose 5 minutes of their Golden Time if they have not completed weekly homework and handed it in on time. *Although I actively encourage the children to become more independent please note that the level of pupil progress is higher for those who have support with their homework including reading than those who don't.*
- **Snack bar** is open on Friday playtimes. The children's money needs to be in a named purse.
- Don't forget **Shared Reading** sessions. We look forward to seeing you!

Useful Websites

- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize
- www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework
- www.mathszone.co.uk
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- www.ictgames.com