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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Wednesday 10th May 2017

Year 2 Newsletter Summer Term

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the summer term in year 2. The children seem to have grown over the holidays and are beginning to look like they are almost ready for Year 3! The year 2 team are available if you have any questions, they are: Miss Johnson, Mrs Mewett, Mrs Webb, Mrs Brooker, Mrs Smith and Mrs Haddlesey.

Class Blog

Before I continue this newsletter, may I remind you about the class blog which is the best place to keep up with all the latest news, events and activities in Year 2. You can access this blog through our school website at: <http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>, via our Facebook and Twitter (see the links on the school website) or via our school's iPhone App which is available to download in the App Store. We hope that you find this method of communication useful and encourage you to comment using the inbuilt tools.

Topic

Sea Turtles, The History of Our School and Dorchester and the Jurassic Coast will be our topics this term as well as in Literacy looking in depth at a favourite story - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. There are some fantastic opportunities for art, design technology, history, geography, science, literacy and drama within these topics.

Trips

We will be visiting Safewise (Weymouth) - Friday 30th June and Dorchester Museum (date to be confirmed). We are also trying to arrange a trip to a seaside location to enhance our Jurassic Coast topic, we will let you know the details as soon as possible.

Themed Weeks

Our Health and Safety Week will be taking place in the week beginning Monday 3rd July, during which we will be having our KS1 sports morning. For year 2 this will be from 11am. We have invited a range of visitors into school to teach us about safety, beach safety, first-aid and road safety. In the week beginning Monday 19th June we will be having a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths week. So lots of creative and inspiring learning will be taking place! If you have any contacts or expertise in these areas please come and talk to a member of the team as we are currently planning the finer details!

Snacks and Water

As the days get warmer we are very aware that some children are not drinking enough during the day. To maximise our brain function and encourage a healthy life style it is essential that they bring a **bottle of water** to drink during the day in addition to a healthy snack for break time. This water is freely available to the children during the day and we endeavour to remind children to drink, however we are still noticing that children are leaving with full water bottles. We are therefore planning a drink smart initiative where the teacher will also have a bottle of water on the table during the day. There will be a competition to see who can drink their bottle before the teacher does and the lucky winners will receive extra Superhero hydration points! In the interests of fairness please ensure that it is water that the children have in their class water bottles. Juice is fine for mealtimes, but not during lesson times where we are encouraging children to make healthy choices. Flavoured waters are acceptable if your child isn't keen on plain water.

Reading and Library Books

Last term we trained the year 2 children up to use the library more independently, many children in year 2 are now confident in changing their own reading books. We would like to encourage them to do this as often as possible before or after school as well as during the designated time in class. It is essential that your child remembers to bring their book bag to school every day. Book bags are needed for Library, Quiet reading, Shared reading, Group reading sessions and spelling activities as well as Individual reading to teachers, classroom assistants and parent helpers. Children should have two reading books of their colour, a reading record in which we encourage the children and adults who hear them to keep a record of the books they have read and any home learning that they have done and a Non Fiction Library book. A record of books going in and out of the library is kept and it appears that we have had some books issued to some members of the class for a long time. It might be that the book has been returned but not scanned, this will eventually be resolved as the book is issued again, but please remember to scan out and scan back, just as you do in a real library. Please try to find time to read with your children at home, whether they are fluent or not, sharing books together on a daily basis will help them to become more confident and develop a love for books.

Key Stage one SATS

You may be aware that it is this time of year that Year 2 are assessed using standard national test materials as well as on going teacher assessment, using this information we then report their outcomes. We will be carrying out these tests throughout May. If you know your child will not be at school please let us know so we can accommodate this. We will not be saying much to the children at all about this process, we want them calm, relaxed and doing their best so we will run these sessions in small groups and in a relaxed atmosphere. Please see attached sheet detailing the new SATs this year and don't hesitate to come and ask if you have any further questions.

Spelling and Home learning Activities

There was some super home learning going on before and over the Easter Holidays and we currently have a display of the work in the classroom. Well done everyone, the quality of work is really high and also really imaginative! Children will be bringing spellings home each week on a Friday, to be learned for the following Friday, the children write these in their home learning diaries, but also bring home an additional sheet to practise on. Spelling continues to remain a high priority this term! We will be asking the children to apply more of their learned spellings within their work and will be setting targets for children to achieve these. It is also worth

keeping your eye on the Blog as each week I will make suggestions of how you can help your child at home with the learning that we have been doing in school.

Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Purple Mash

Children all use these sites regularly at school and can continue to log in in the same way at home. In doing this, may we remind you of the school's policy on using the Internet at home, which is to always supervise your child when using the Internet.

Assembly

Our assembly this term will be on Friday 7th July at 9:20am in the school hall. You are more than welcome to come along and see for yourself what fun we have been having this term.

PE

Please could you ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school; some items of clothing have become a little tight over the holidays! Our PE sessions take place on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Our sports morning will be held on Monday 3rd July from 11:00 until 12:30. Depending on the weather we are likely to do the races first and the rota of skills on the playground and around the grounds after that.

Rights, Responsibilities, Resilience and Resourcefulness

We have been thinking about how we can ensure that our classroom remains a happy, safe and fair place to be. We have renewed our class charter, which states our rights and the responsibilities we have to ensure these rights are fulfilled. The class charter is used in conjunction with the DASP Caterpillars to support expectations for behaviour. Our class rules continue to be constantly and consistently reinforced. We also started the term looking at our "Learning Powers" so that we can all become learning superheroes. We have so far looked at Resilience: The children have become more aware of the need to get into the "zone" when working and how they can deal with a range of distractions. They have also become very good at noticing when they are being resilient and have begun to use the language that we associate to resilience. We would encourage you to continue to use these phrases at home as they can be really effective: Try your best, keep going, never give up, focus, get into "the zone", manage your distractions, determination, persevere, have an "I can" attitude and don't forget - Keep Calm and Carry On! We have also looked at being Resourceful - This involves being curious and asking lots of questions; making links and seeing how things fit together; using your imagination and reasoning about your answers - using the word "because" really helps with this one and using all of the resources available to help you to be successful. Try getting your child to ask as many questions as they can and develop those curious minds!

Playtime Communication

We have noticed that towards the end of last term and the beginning of this, that some children have had difficulty with other children within the class "spoiling" their games. We have looked into this thoroughly and given the children strategies to ensure that they can manage problems and have a fun and successful playtime. The majority of these incidents are caused by a lack of communication between the children in their games. At this age many children will assume that others are thinking and feeling the same way as themselves or be so involved in the "play" that they don't listen to what others are saying. We have therefore encouraged all of year 2 to:

1. Use your manners and ask if you can play.
2. Include everyone who wants to be involved.
3. Listen to others.
4. Say how you feel.
5. If things go wrong and people aren't doing steps 1-4 get an adult to help **straight away**.

We also have playground monitors in year 4 who have been helping resolve issues in the playground since September, they will also be happy to help out.

Yours sincerely

Miss A Johnson and Mrs C Mewett