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Wednesday 18th April, 2018

Year 2 - Class Newsletter - Summer Term 2018

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 Webb, Mrs Hibberd, Mrs Cornell and Mrs Rogers.

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).

Parent's Information

I will be leading a session for parents at 9am on Thursday 26th April to tell you more about this term in year 2 as well as explain the SATs in a little more detail. I will also be explaining the SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) unit of work which we will be covering through Jigsaw time in the second half of this term and answer any questions you have regarding this term's learning.

Topic

Sea Turtles, Animals and Plants, Local Heroes 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 (advanced warning – We will be dressing up!). There are some fantastic opportunities for art, design technology, history, geography, science, literacy and drama within these topics.

Trips

We are planning trips to Safewise, The Jurassic Coast – Possibly Charmouth, these trips will be happening after half term and dates will be shared as soon as possible. We will also be having visitors such as the Falconry visit on Monday 23rd of April and the RSPB will be joining us later on 22nd June.



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Themed Weeks

This term we will be having a Global Awareness Fortnight from Monday 18th June – Friday 29th June. This will have a global and sporting theme as our Sports Days will be held during this fortnight. Year 2's sports day will be on Wednesday 27th June, timings to be confirmed.

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 lifestyle 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 ongoing 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 what to expect from the SATs this year and don't hesitate to come and ask if you have any further questions.



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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! Home learning will continue to come home weekly on a Friday. Children will also continue to bring spellings home each week on a Friday, to be learned for the following Friday and will 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 6th 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 Thursday.

Rights, Responsibilities, Resilience, Reflectiveness 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 continued to build our "Learning Powers" so that we can all become learning superheroes. We continue to reinforce these key skills:

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! Resilient Rodney, our resident tortoise has helped us to understand this learning power best of all.



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Resourcefulness: 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!

Reflectiveness: This is all about how we learn best, knowing what we do well and how we can improve. It helps to have still and quiet time, to still the body and mind and to really think! It’s about growing, improving and changing as well as planning ahead to see how you could be successful.

Groupings

In year 2 we like to change groupings regularly, sometimes this reflects performance, but more often than not it is about dynamics within the group. It is essential that children learn to work with a range of different people in the class and are in a group which allows that to happen. All groupings are very carefully considered and changed regularly (at least every half term) to provide the best possible learning environment for all children. Often the best learning takes place when children are asked to work with someone that they wouldn’t usually work with and in training the children to be happy to do this ensures that they are learning important social skills and developing their confidence.

Marking

We are working hard at the Prince of Wales School to ensure our teaching is the best it can possibly be and a big part of this is marking and feedback. In year 2 we are currently working on trialling a new way of marking that is more efficient and impacts more on the children’s progress. This new strategy will ensure your child receives feedback about their work and any difficulties are immediately addressed and successes are shared and celebrated. It will mean you will see less teacher comments in their books, however each piece of work is still looked at and future lessons are planned according to the children’s needs.

Yours sincerely

Miss A Johnson

Year 2 Teacher



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