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Wednesday 8th January, 2020

Year 2 - Class Newsletter - Spring Term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas holiday!

Happy New Year!

Some dates for your information/diaries:

Year 2 Parents' Information session with Mr. MacBean

Friday 17th January, 9.00am in the Year 2 Classroom.

NSPCC PANTS Day (more information to follow)

Monday 3rd February 2020

Parents' Consultation Sessions

Tuesday 4th February 5.20pm - 7.50pm. and Wednesday 6th February 3.40pm - 5.30pm This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's work.

Inspired Writing Week

Week commencing Monday 10th February 2020. Theme = Magic.

INSET Day

Friday 14th February 2020 / No school for children.

HALF TERM BREAK

Week Commencing Monday 17th February 2020.

Book Week

Week commencing Monday 2nd March

World Book Day



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Thursday 5th March (Book character costume will be required.)

Our **Year 2 Class Assembly** is on Friday 13th March at 9.20 am in the school hall.

Y2 Visit to St. Mary's Church, Dorchester – week of 30th March / date to be arranged

Easter Break – Week commencing Monday 6th April 2020.

Year Two Curriculum

Do please refer to our Knowledge Organisers to get a more detailed account of the Spring Term Curriculum

Reading

The development of reading remains a very high priority in what we do in Year 2.

We continue to adopt various organisational approaches:

Individual Reading using “Accelerated Reader Scheme”- The children must have their individual books from the “Accelerated Reader Scheme”. These are collected independently by the children from the school library and are to be taken home. These are the books that make up your child’s regular home reading and should be kept in their book bags. These are coded according to the level of challenge that they present. The children should be aware of their appropriate selection basket. These books should be changed by the children when necessary after the children have taken the online quiz for that particular text. They will have opportunities to change books during the school day (such as before register, at break time and at lunch time). There will also be regular occasions when a member of the Year Two Team will talk to your child about the books they have been reading and the quizzes that they have taken. We are able to monitor their completion of quizzes using the online system and see how well they are doing.

Whole Class Texts – We will be working on selected texts as a whole class. There will be differentiation of activities according to children’s needs and levels of ability.

Library Books - The children can choose a non-fiction book from the Library each week. They will have an opportunity to change or renew this during the week. This is a free choice to reflect their personal interests. The children can check books in and out using the electronic library system.

Punctuation, Grammar and Vocabulary - We will be working hard to develop the children’s use of punctuation, grammar and vocabulary in accordance with the key objectives outlined in the National Curriculum and seen as key targets for children in Year 2.

This will underpin all of the work that we do in our English lessons. There will be weekly lessons designed to explicitly focus on different elements of this.

Handwriting - We are having a very specific focus on the development of neat handwriting and the effective presentation of written work. We will be employing a range of strategies for this. We hope that you are already able to see good progress in your child’s handwriting development over the course of the Autumn Term. Some children will have an opportunity for additional support with this within an “intervention group”.



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Power Maths - Mathematics is given very high priority. It is taught first lesson every day. I will keep you informed of which particular areas we are covering through frequent "Blogs". Our Maths Topic for the first few weeks will be Multiplication and Division.

Please encourage the use of "Mathletics" at home and the new "Time Table Rock Stars" online resource that we will be introducing to the Y2 children soon.

Topic Work -

In the first half-term term, our History will be focussing on the lives of **Nelson and Hardy**. This topic will also drive some of our D.T. and Art activities.

In the second half-term we will be using the theme of "**India**" as a context to deliver various areas of the curriculum.

Science - First half-term – **Materials:**

Learning about how some materials can be made to change shape.

Learning about the changes from solids to liquids and gases.

Learning to identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.

Second half-term – Tigers and other wildlife in India (-and comparing African and Indian Elephants).

Geography - Learning about the country of India.

R.E. topic work using the "Discovery R.E. Scheme". This term covers elements of Christianity, Hinduism and Islam.

Music - Using the "Charanga" scheme.

P.H.S.E. - Using the Jigsaw Scheme

First half-term - ***Dreams and Goals*** Second half-term - ***Healthy Me***

PE - Please could you ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school. As the weather is colder this term we would also like the children to have the option of wearing trainers and tracksuit bottoms for outside PE.

Our PE sessions take place on Monday (with Mr. MacBean) and Wednesday afternoons (with Mr. Treble).

Home Learning

I will be continuing to encourage the children to do some "Home Learning" every week. This will take the form of finishing off a piece of writing which has been started in school, doing some research or having a go at a Mathematics activity. This will now be set and sent out on Wednesdays. This will also be put onto a "blog" on Wednesdays.

The children are also encouraged to enjoy using "**Mathletics**" and (new this term) "**Times Table Rock Stars**".



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Please remind and encourage children to take the quizzes for their **“Accelerated Reader”** challenge.

In addition to this, we will continue to send the children home with texts and spellings relating to their **“Read, Write Inc”** group.

Show and Tell

The children in this year’s Year Two are particularly keen to bring in items of interest from home to show to their classmates and to talk about. This term we would like to (generally) restrict this to bringing in a **book** for this purpose. I will choose a group of children each week to be our Book Show-and-tellers. They should be able to talk about the book and perhaps read an excerpt from it.

Snacks and Water

We are keen that the children have a healthy snack at Break Time. We would like to positively encourage healthy snacks, so no sweets or crisps please. Your child should put his/her snack in the “Snack Tray” when they arrive at school.

We are keen that the children should have access to water in the classroom, as there is much evidence to support the idea that this helps them to learn. Please give your child a named water container. This can stay at school and they can top it up in the Servery when necessary. This can be separate to the drink that you provide for their lunch, which might be something other than water, such as a fruit juice.

Communication between School and Parents (Year Two)

Please feel that you can approach any of the Year 2 Team to discuss any issues, worries, concerns that you may have when you drop off and pick up your child. If you would like to arrange a more detailed or confidential chat with me, then I would be very happy to make an appointment to do so. From my experience it is always better to deal with any concerns as quickly as possible rather than wait until the Parents Consultation Evenings.

Blogs

I will write regular “blogs” on the school website. These will be brief details of what we have been up to in class, and comments about what things will be coming up soon. I will also blog the “home learning” activity that I have suggested to the children. The class blog is on the school website at: <http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>.

To view these go to the “Year Two “section of the “Parents’ Page” on the website. Please feel free to comment on these blogs on the webpage.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D. MacBean
Year 2 Class Teacher



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