

Class 2 Termly Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to a new year in Class 2 and for what promises to be a very exciting year! I am really looking forward to working in Class 2 and teaching lots of familiar faces from previous years. Class 2 follows a 2 year rolling curriculum which alternates topics over this period. This letter will highlight what the class will be covering over the autumn term and also highlight a few points of note for children in Class 2.

Phonics

Children in both year 1 and 2 will be continuing their reading journey through the school scheme of 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised'.

Year 1 pupils begin their phonics this year by revising the content learnt last year, briefly revisiting all phonemes learnt last year before beginning their learning of Phase 5, where split digraphs start to be introduced. More new sounds will then be introduced in the second half of this term, with children learning that some graphemes can make more than just one phoneme.

Year 2 pupils will begin the year revising what was learnt in the 'summer 2' part of their year 1 phonics before moving onto 'Bridge to Spelling' that starts to move away from using phonics for reading but starts to help children understand that there are different spelling patterns in the English language that they will need to understand, further helping their writing.

Both year groups will receive 3 group reading sessions a week in accordance to Little Wandle and at the end of the week, these books will be sent home on Thursdays for you to hear them read over the weekend and will need to be returned on Mondays for us to use the books the following week.

Reading at home massively helps to embed what the children have learnt at school and helps build confidence in children to become fluent and independent readers. We encourage children to try and read or share a book daily with an adult at home as it makes this substantial difference.

Literacy:

As a school, we will be using 'Literacy Tree' to help guide our literacy lessons this year. One book will be focussed upon for about 3 weeks and will help inspire the children to produce different forms of writing based on what we have read. Our focus books for the autumn term are:

Theme 1: Destruction and Preservation:

- Cave Baby by Julia Donaldson – narrative retelling, labels and captions
- The Journey Home by Fran Preston-Gannon – persuasive letter, postcards, stories and reports

Theme 2: Space and Our World:

- We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom – Poems and non-chronological reports
- Astro Girl by Ken Wilson-Max – Fact files, commands and guides

Drawing Club:

Due to its high popularity and the brilliant creativity it encourages in the children's imagination and writing, Drawing Club will be continued now in Class 2. Similar to previous, a focus class book will be read for the week

and the children will get to delve into rich vocabulary and opportunities to come up with answers to imaginative questions related to the story.

Maths:

The school is now teaching maths through 'White Rose' and all lessons are mixed age, meaning that both yeargroups will be covering the same topic but tackling questions at an age appropriate level every lesson. Our topics for the autumn term will be:

- Place value (within 20)
- Addition and subtraction (within 20)
- Place value (within 100)
- Shape

Times table practice is important from an early age as being able to quickly recall number facts ensures that cognitive load is spent on mathematical problem solving rather than having to work out number facts alongside finding an answer to a problem. With this in mind, children will be spending time each week practicing their times tables through 'TT Rockstars' and homework may be set for practice to be done at home through the online platform.

Science:

In our first half term, Class 2 will be learning about the human body; understanding about some of the systems that operate within our bodies, including the skeletal system, the muscular system, the digestive system and the circulatory system.

In our second half term, the class will turn our attentions onto other living things in our environment. Children will understand the difference between things that are living, things that are not and those which are inanimate. We will then continue to expand our prior knowledge on habitats, focussing on others around the world including rainforests, deserts and underground and understand how animals have adapted to their environment.

History:

In History, the Class will be learning about the Romans in Britain. In this topic, children explore who the Romans were, why they invaded Britain, and what life was like during Roman rule. They learn about important historical figures such as Julius Caesar, Emperor Claudius, and Boudicca, while investigating how the Romans changed Britain through their towns, roads and written records. The unit helps children understand how Roman influence can still be seen in Britain today.

Geography:

In Geography, Class 2 will be learning about spatial sense. In this topic, children develop their map skills by exploring the school site and learning how maps help us understand and navigate different places. They learn to read and draw simple maps, use symbols and compass directions, and discover how cartographers create accurate maps of the world around us. Children also explore local area maps and globes, helping them understand how maps can represent both small and large areas and how geographers use them to gather information about locations.

Religious Education:

The children will learning about Christianity this term and will be discussing the and working to the overarching questions of 'Who made the world?' and 'What do Christians believe God is like?'.

Physical Education:

PE lessons will be on Thursday and Friday afternoons and will be taught by myself and Mr Fenn, taking one topic each half term each. Please can children come dressed in PE kit for the appropriate days and if any jewellery is normally worn, could this be removed for these days too for safety, thank you.

In the first half term, the class will be focussing on fitness and fundamentals.

In the fitness topic, pupils will take part in a range of activities to develop components of fitness; developing agility, balance, co-ordination, speed and stamina. The class will develop perseverance and show determination to work for longer periods of time.

In fundamentals, pupils will develop their balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping through using a range of equipment. The class will observe and recognise improvements in their own and others' ability, to collaborate and share ideas.

After half term, the class focus solely on dance until Christmas. Pupils will explore space and how their body can move and express an idea, mood, character or feeling. They will expand their knowledge of travelling actions and use them in relation to a stimulus. The class will be able to use counts of 8 consistently to keep in time with the music and a partner.

Computing:

In our first half term, we will be focussing on 'Technology Around Us'. Pupils will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills. Learners will also consider how to use technology responsibly and who to ask for help if they see any content or comments online that make them feel uncomfortable.

In our second half term, we will be focusing on 'Digital Painting'. We will develop their understanding of a range of tools used for digital painting. They then use these tools to create their own digital paintings, while gaining inspiration from a range of artists' work. The unit concludes with pupils considering their preferences when painting with and without the use of digital devices.

Art and Design:

In art, we will be focussing on 'Colour and Shape'. In this art topic, children explore how artists use colour and shape to create different effects, studying the work of Kandinsky, Monet, Klee, Picasso, Kelly and Calder. They develop their painting, drawing and sculpture skills by mixing colours, creating tints and shades, exploring geometric and organic shapes, and observing natural objects. Children finish the unit by designing and making their own artwork and sculptures inspired by the artists they have studied, while learning how to evaluate and discuss different artistic styles.

In DT, the class will be focussing on moving pictures and how we can edit paper to create a picture that involves a moving object to enhance our picture.

RSHE:

As a school, we have begun following 'POL ED' and 'Oak National Academy' as a scheme this year and every term, we will be focussing on answering a variety of questions and also focus on our emotions in certain lessons. This term, our questions will be focussed around relationships:

- How can I be an ally?
- How can I make friends?
- What if my friends are making me feel sad?
- What is bullying?
- Why are safe hands important?
- Why is name calling unkind?

- Our emotions
- Describing our feelings
- Knowing how I feel
- Managing our feelings
- We are all unique
- We are all equal

Music:

The class will continue to have Mr Lawrence for music and in Class 2, we will be following topics from Charanga. Topics in this term include:

- Hands, feet, heart
- Ho Ho Ho!

Closer to Christmas, the class will be turning their attentions to their annual nativity performance and we look forward to the Nativity written by Mr Lawrence for this year!

Other:

Spare Clothes:

From falling over and getting dirty, toilet accidents or just getting caught out in a very heavy downpour, there can always be a random time when children may need a change of clothes. With that in mind, please can all children bring in a spare set of clothes to be left in a bag on their peg in case of emergencies. Thank you.

Show and Tell:

We love to hear about different achievements or events that children have let themselves shine in our class and openly encourage them to bring in and certificates/ medals/ pictures to share with the class. Thursdays are the best day for this as we can include it in our class wellbeing worship at the end of the day.

Best wishes

Mr Rackham & Mrs Kenna