

Year 2 Newsletter

Dear parents,

A big welcome back to year 2, I hope you all had a great summer and are raring to go for an exciting year ahead!

Our creative curriculum topics this year will be as follows:

<i>Term</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Example coverage</i>
1	USA	Map skills, landmarks, Native American culture, traditions and famous Americans.
2	Weather	Weather patterns, extreme weather, and measuring different types of weather.
3	Oceans, lakes and seas	Famous boats, Christopher Columbus, naming oceans, artists that use water and water experiments.
4	The Great Fire of London	The story of the Great Fire of London, Samuel Pepys, building structures and fire safety.
5	What's at the bottom of my garden?	Allotments, growing plants and seeds, healthy eating, pond life and life cycles.
6	Dinosaurs	Types of dinosaur and the lead up to their extinction.

National tests:

As many of you are aware the children will be completing their SATs at the end of the year. These are statutory tests that allow the children's progress to be measured nationally and compared to an average national score. They are not something for the children to be worried about at all, and from as early as September the children will begin preparations to reduce stress nearer the time.

Leading up to the SATs the children will be following the National Curriculum, and as a result their progress will be tracked using 'expected', 'exceeding' and 'emerging' categories against their ability to meet the curriculum objectives for year 2. We expect that all children will start at an 'emerging' status, as they will be starting from scratch on a brand new year 2 curriculum, developing into the 'expected' category by the end of the year.

Some of the children will also be completing their phonics screening retakes. Again this is not something that the children should be stressed about – many of them actually enjoyed the activities leading up to the test last year! Children will have their phonics regularly assessed throughout the year, and there will be lots of support for those who did not pass the initial screening from early on in the year. The test for this year will continue in the same format as has previously been conducted.

Homework:

Children will be given homework once a week; made up of one piece of maths homework and one piece of English homework. Both pieces of homework will be set on a Friday and collected back in on a Wednesday.

As well as this the children will be given times tables and spellings to learn. Times tables will be tested on a Monday and spellings will be tested on a Friday.

As has always been the case, the children will have a reading book, which will need to be read twice before it will be changed. This is to improve the children's comprehension and fluency of the text. As the children move higher up the reading schemes there may also be comprehension activities to go with some of the books. These should be completed in their reading record books.

At the beginning of the 1st, 3rd and 5th terms the children will have a 2 week homework project based on their creative curriculum topic in place of their literacy and numeracy homework. This will be given out on Friday 8th September.

I understand that this is a big ask of year 2, and can sometimes seem overwhelming, but due to the new additions to the National Curriculum from the government, many of the expectations from year 3 have been moved down to year 2. If you have any difficulties or concerns with any aspects of the homework then please contact me via the children's homework books or find me on the gate.

Equipment:

PE lessons will be taught on Mondays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child has the correct kit for both outdoor and indoor PE. Children with long hair will need to tie their hair back, and earrings will need to be removed or taped. The children must be able to do this themselves as we are unable to remove earrings at school.

Please ensure that your child also has an art apron or shirt in school for creative curriculum activities. We do have a few spares in class, but would appreciate if the children could bring their own labelled aprons in.

The children will have all the stationery they need at school on their tables, and for this reason we ask that the children don't bring in their own individual pencil cases. Children in the infants do not have their own trays, and as we move around the class for different English and Maths seats, it is very difficult to track where pencil cases end up.

The children can still bring in their own wellington boots for wood activities and lunch times, but we do ask that these are clearly named.

Thank you for your support,

Miss Hyder.