

Year 2 Half Term Curriculum & Home-Learning Letter

Autumn 1st Half Term: September 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a fun-filled and restful summer break.

Year 2 will be starting the year with an exploratory science unit entitled "Materials - Good choices". The children will build on their knowledge from Year 1, investigating different materials and their properties; and we will look in more detail at how properties make materials useful for particular purposes. The children will be researching, exploring, testing ideas, comparing and discussing their findings, whilst using and consolidating a range of scientific vocabulary.

In English, we will start the term focusing on a lovely text called "The Bear and the Piano". The children will read, discuss and share their ideas about this book and will be looking at descriptive writing, creating first person diary entries. We will also be looking at the features of newspapers and creating our own headlines and front covers. The children will be practising their extended writing, reading, spellings, grammar and handwriting, on a weekly basis.

This half term in Maths, we will be covering many maths areas including; estimating, counting, comparing numbers, number bonds, multiples, doubling and investigating 2D shapes. The children will also be having weekly arithmetic and timestables sessions. In Year 2 our focus tables are x2, x5 and x10.

In RE the children will be doing lots of 'Big Thinking' about our new unit 'What do Christians believe God is like?' We will be looking at parables and exploring their true meanings, asking and exploring puzzling questions and trying to identify what these stories tell us about God. The children will make links to their own lives and experiences, bringing this unit to life through reading, writing, drama, song and creative arts.

In Computing, we will be thinking about E. Safety. Children will be discussing the importance of our school E-Safety rules and thinking about their own on-line behaviour. We will be learning about the benefits of technology in today's society alongside strategies for staying safe when using technology.

We continue to receive coaching support for our KS1 PE sessions, please ensure children have a suitable kit in school everyday (for indoor and outdoor use). Can we remind parents and carers that children are encouraged to wear plimsolls for indoor use and trainers for outdoor PE sessions. Children may wear shorts or tracksuit bottoms (please see Mrs Stevenson in the office, if you have any uniform queries / questions). It is helpful if children keep PE socks in their bags (if wearing tights to school) and for children with long hair to have a spare hairband to tie long hair back for PE sessions.

We are pleased to say that our weekly church visits will be resuming, these will be on a Friday morning. We would very much welcome and appreciate parent helpers to escort the class to church. I will post a helpers list on the Y1/2 playground door; please sign up if you are able to help.

Home learning for this half term is as follows:

- Home-learning folders and spellings will be sent home on **Fridays** and are to be handed in on the following **Wednesday**. Please note, spelling tests will take place every Wednesday. Please ensure children complete all home learning and regularly practise their spellings and times tables.
- Please continue to encourage children to read regularly, this can be schoolbooks, as well as books from home. School reading books will be changed weekly, your child's changing day will be written on the front of their reading diary. It is helpful if parents and carers take some time to read with the children and ask questions about what they have read; this will help to support children's developing reading comprehension skills. In Year 2 one to one reading is no longer carried out for all children, so additional one to one reading support at home can be extremely beneficially. In Year 2 all children will take part in weekly guided group reading and comprehension sessions.

If you have any questions, concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to pop in and speak to one of the Year 2 learning team or drop us a note.

