

Year Two Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 2016



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to the beginning of the school year. We hope you had a lovely summer break. We would like to take this opportunity to tell you all about Year Two!

Staff

The teachers who work in Year Two are Miss Wood and Mr Smith. Year Two is supported by Mrs Gibson, Miss Dale, Miss Icton, Mrs Wright and Mr Clements. Mrs Beaumont and Tom Andrew typically cover our planning and release time.

Curriculum

Here is an outline of the topics that we will be covering over the term. Our cross-curricular theme this half term is 'Detectives Delve Deeper'.

Next half term our cross- curricular theme will be 'Where we live.'

English - We will be looking at different detective stories, focusing on predictable and patterned language as well as exploring character and setting descriptions. We will also be writing alternative endings to different stories.

Next half term we will explore non-fiction texts in more depth, analysing and writing newspaper reports and recounts.

Maths - Over the term we will look at properties of number, odd and even, the four operations and solving word problems. We also look at the properties of shapes, time and money.

Computing - We will be looking at initially logging on and off the computer independently. We also introduce the children to Microsoft excel to filter data. After the half term we will be using digital cameras to take photographs before using software to edit the images.

Science - This term the children will be learning about the names of the parts of plants, the similarities and differences between plants and animals, how things grow and then we will explore the question of 'Are all living things the same?'

History- History sees us delving into the past and studying the life of one of our most famous local explorers, James Cook. We will visit the Captain Cook Birthplace museum in the half term (details to follow).

Geography- We will be following History by exploring the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. We will be finding similarities and differences between cities and our local area.

RE and PHSE - The children will look at Hindu celebration and practices (Diwali). In PSHE the children will participate in weekly circle time looking at the SEAL topic of 'New Beginnings'.

Music, Art and Design - This term in Art the children will look at different sculptures and sketching still life objects. In Music the children will be using their detective skills to identify features of different pieces of music.

PE -. The children will be learning dance and games skills. Children need a full **NAMED** PE kit in school **every day**. They need shorts and t-shirt for indoor PE and jogging trousers, trainers and a jumper for outdoor PE. **PE will be on Monday and Wednesday**. **It is vital that ALL children have the correct kit in school, as it impacts on lesson time when we have to search around for spare kit.**

Homework

A new homework grid will be sent out on Friday 9th September. Please let your child's teacher know if you didn't receive one. The homework is the same process as in Year One, where the children can choose tasks to complete to achieve points. There is a basket in each classroom where the children place finished homework tasks and the teacher checks the basket on a weekly basis. We always recognise and celebrate children who bring in their homework and we will be keeping a log of children who do not complete their homework and will address any issues at Parents Evening.

Reading and School Library

When your child brought in their old Year One reading record they received a new Year Two reading record. Again there is a basket in each classroom where the children place their reading records. As we have asked for reading records to be in school each day we kindly ask that you write a message in the record when your child's book needs to be changed (a comment about their reading or 'new book please' will suffice). Miss Wood's class and Mr Smith's class visit the library on a Tuesday afternoon. The children are able to choose a book to bring

home to read with you and we kindly ask it is brought into school ready for the next visit!

Spellings

The children receive spellings every week. Please let your child's teacher know if your copy has gone astray. We send a list home on Friday and test the following Friday. We send spellings that are either related to phonic or spelling patterns or to a topic. Please help your child to learn their words each week.

Helping at Home

As well as supporting your child with their homework and spellings and encouraging them to read every day, there are other ways that you can help with your child's learning. If you wish to concentrate on key English and Maths skills, working on times tables, adding small numbers together mentally, asking the children about any maths games they play at school (Ping Pong is very popular) can help with this, as well as the following website. Please note that Yarm Primary cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

www.ictgames.co.uk

If you are looking for some ways to encourage writing ask your child to write a shopping list, notes on what they want to do that day, simple instructions of how to make the bed etc. Make sure that your child is ready to write, they do a lot at school so don't worry if they are unwilling. Just try it another day!

In addition, there are some other ways you can help. We really focus on our 'Behaviour for Learning' and how lining up properly and being ready for the lesson by showing good listening can help with this. You may wish to discuss this with your child, as well as how good manners can go a long way!

If you have any queries please contact your child's teacher, which you can do through the yard or the school office. Please try to leave questions where possible until 3:30 as we are eager to start our lessons promptly, just like the children!

Many thanks

Year Two Team