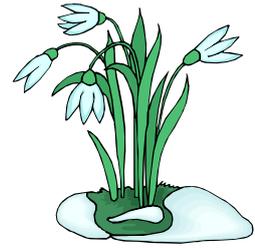


Year Two Curriculum Letter

Spring Term 2017



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back, we hope that you had a lovely Christmas and New Year. This letter will outline the topics and what will be happening in Year Two this term.

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 is 'Australia'. We think about the question... Home or away - where is best? where we will compare Australia with the work we did last half-term on the UK.

English - Our English work links with our topic of Australia. We will be exploring Australian fairy tales, writing an eBook about an Australian animal and completing some non-fiction writing about Steve Irwin.

After the February half-term break we will use The Great Fire of London as stimulus for our English work. The children will write a diary entry based on the work of Samuel Pepys, as well as other writing around the significant event.

Maths - Where possible the mathematical learning will be linked to the 'Australia' topic. The children will be building on their knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and will apply these skills to solve word problems. They will continue to develop their understanding of time, money and measure and also the properties of 2d and 3d shapes. The children will continue to develop their understanding of the properties of numbers and also on identifying patterns within a set of numbers.

Computing - This term the children will collect data and use simple charting software to create basic charts and pictograms in the topic 'We are zoologists'.

The children will also develop their researching skills in the topic 'We are researchers'.

Science - This term the children will be learning about the habitats of living things. They will learn about simple food chains and the different sources of food. The children will also learn about different animals and their offspring and will learn about the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival. They will also learn about how keeping clean and exercising are important for our health.

Geography/History - As part of our Australia topic the children will look at the location, human and physical features of Australia and the climate. Later this term we will be looking at the Great Fire of London and the timeline of this significant event in History.

RE and PHSE - The children will look at how and why Christians celebrate Easter and the significance of Jesus' disciples. We continue to have a weekly Circle Time which look at the SEAL topics of *Going for Goals* and *Good to be me*.

Music, Art and Design - The children will create pieces of art in an Aboriginal style. Then we will be busy sewing puppets! We also look at artwork from the Great Fire of London. In Music the children will explore music from around the world.

PE -. The children will be learning gym, 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 Wednesday and Friday**. 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 6th January. Please let your child's teacher know if you don't receive one. The deadline for this half term is the week beginning 6th February. The homework follows the same structure as last term. There is a basket in each classroom where finished homework can be placed and Miss Wood and Mr Smith check the basket regularly. A certificate is given to children who achieve the total points and we will follow up on any missing homework.

Reading and School Library

Children in Year Two visit the school library on a Wednesday. Please remember to send any old library books back into school. We will hopefully be visiting Yarm Library later this term.

Spellings

Children receive spellings each Friday. Please let your child's teacher know if their copy has gone astray. We now keep some spares in our homework baskets so you can pick a new one up if you need it!

Helping at Home

Next Tuesday (10th January) there will be a phonics session after school for any parents wanting to find out about how we use phonics to help with reading and spelling.

Thank you for supporting your child with their reading, spellings and homework in the Autumn Term. Please continue to do this as a little every day makes big gains over time. If you wish to help in other ways, looking for patterns in number can really help with understanding. Some examples of this would be knowing that $8 + 2 = 10$, $18 + 2 = 20$, $28 + 2 = 30$ and so on. Also knowing the relationship between $+$ and $-$ is another good skill, ($23 + 5 = 28$, $5 + 23 = 28$, $28 - 5 = 23$ and $28 - 23 = 5$). Telling the time and money are two life skills which can be discussed daily. This will help with our learning during 'Money Sense' week this half-term.

Again we would encourage writing in all forms from stories, lists, notes, labelling diagrams, instructions or letters! Just make sure that your child is ready to write, if they are unwilling just leave it for another time.

As we are exploring the world, looking at a map (or Google Earth) can be a great way of knowing and learning the countries, continents, oceans and capitals around the globe.

Here are a few website links. Please note that Yarm Primary cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

www.ictgames.co.uk

www.fireoflondon.org.uk

As last term, we are always thinking about our behaviour for learning, good manners, listening to others and how work should always be neatly presented in books.

If you have any queries please contact your child's teacher, which you can do on the yard or through the school office. Please try to leave questions until 3:30 where possible to allow a smooth and prompt start to the day.

Many thanks

Year Two Team