



# Autumn Term – Curriculum Newsletter

## Year 2

### English

#### Speaking and Listening

This year, children will be encouraged to speak articulately and in full sentences. There will be plenty of opportunities within the curriculum for the children to explore the English language and become confident speakers to different audiences. This will be supported by their reading opportunities within school.

#### Reading

Initially, the children will continue to develop their phonics skills through daily phonics lessons. We will then begin to include regular whole class comprehension lessons, linked to the phonics lesson, to continue to develop reading skills.

#### Writing

This term, the children will be continuing to develop their cursive handwriting through daily English lessons and weekly handwriting lessons. The children will also be developing their vocabulary through composing their own character/setting descriptions and persuasive letters.

### Maths

The maths topics we will be covering this term are place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication and division. Children will improve their understanding of tens and ones within our place value unit. This will support the children as we move onto addition and subtraction where the children will be taught and encouraged to use strategies involving tens and ones to solve addition and subtraction calculations. We will then look at grouping and sharing to develop multiplication and division skills. We would also encourage children to begin using Times Table Rock Stars at home to support their fluency in their 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Our topic for the Autumn term is The Earth: Our Home. During this topic we will be focusing on the following subjects: Geography, Music and Art. We will be learning about the following things:

**Geography** – In Geography the children will be learning about the seven continents and five oceans. The children will be taught and encouraged to name and locate the world's continents and oceans on a world map or globe. In addition to this, the children will also explore the equator, locating hot and cold areas either side of the equator and explaining how the weather affects these areas. The children will also develop their map reading skills by describing and comparing human and physical features around the world and their local area.

**Art** – The children will be designing their own shoe box habitats as their initial entry point into the topic, so please bring in any old shoe boxes that you have lying around. The children will be encouraged to choose appropriate materials to create their given habitat. You will be able to see the shoe box habitats at parents evening later in the term.

**Music** – In Music, the children will listen to music linked to our topic and describe how an instrument has been used to represent a sound or object. The children will also describe the different elements of a piece of music, e.g. pace, volume, etc. This will lead towards the children developing their own "Rainforest Parade".

In this topic we will be using the following vocabulary. If possible, please talk about these words at home to ensure your child has a good understanding of their meaning:

Topic words:

**Art** – Mix, sketch, tear, pattern, attach, technique, cut, pattern, natural, texture.

**Geography** – Continent, equator, forest, rain forest, mangrove forest, temperate forest, vegetation, animals, habitat, weather, climate, oceans, town, country side, city.

**Music** - Pitch, texture, dynamics, emotion, pace, volume, rhythm, pulse, representation.

## **Science**

In Science, we will be focusing on animals, including humans, and living things and their habitats. This will involve studying different species of animals and classifying them. We will also be looking at how humans use their five senses, what it takes to have a healthy body, how different animals eat different things and the different habitats that animals live in, particularly different forests around the world.

## **PSHE/Peacemakers**

We will be really promoting Growth Mindset this term, which looks at developing perseverance and resilience in children, especially when they are finding something difficult.

## **PE**

For PE this term the children will be covering multi skills as a unit of study. The children will participate in a range of games and activities that will develop their agility and balance. The children will also develop their understanding of how physical activity and a healthy diet helps to keep a healthy mind. Please remember PE is on Friday. Children must come to school in their PE kit. A PE kit consists of a white t shirt, black/navy blue shorts/joggers and black pumps.

## **RE**

The children will develop their understanding of rules in society and within faiths. We will look in more detail at the rules within Christianity, Islam and Sikhism. We will look at the Ten Commandments, the Five Pillars and the rules of Islamic prayer.

## **Homework**

A homework grid is attached to this letter. We ask that your child chooses one thing every fortnight to complete, and we ask that homework is handed in every other Monday, where we will celebrate your child's work together as a class. Your child may need your assistance to complete some tasks and we ask that if they are researching anything online, that they are supervised. We have lots of resources in school to help your child complete their homework. If there are any questions on this, email the Year 2 team, who will be more than happy to help you.

We also ask that you are reading with your child at least three times a week. Even 5 – 10 minutes of reading at home can really make a difference in their learning. We will be changing your child's books weekly. Each child will have a day that they will read one to one with an adult, during which time their books will be changed. Please make sure that your child has their book in school every day.

## **Key Dates**

Healthy eating week – WC 28.09.20

Black History, Art and Culture week – WC 19.10.20