



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. Here are the exciting topics and subjects we will be covering during the spring term.

CbIDS (Consciousness-based Interdisciplinary Studies)

Consciousness-based Interdisciplinary Studies is at the heart of all of our lessons and this helps to nurture each individual's potential, creativity and understanding of the world. This term our CbIDS key ideas are;

We are here to enjoy - this will be a key theme throughout the entire curriculum as we strive to deliver exciting and engaging lessons including a weekly Golden Time and our termly trips/workshops.

Purification - purification leads to progress.

Action - enjoy greater efficiency and accomplish more.

Reaction - every action has a reaction.

Maths

In maths this term we are covering a range of topics which include: Money; recognising British coins, the value of each coin and comparing amounts; Multiplication and division; recognising the multiplication and division symbols, using arrays and making equal groups; Length and Height; recognising units of measure including cm and m; and finally, we learn about Mass, Capacity and Temperature. There will be an emphasis on using mental strategies also in our daily Maths Mastery sessions. Helping your child to revise the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times-tables and recognising doubles of numbers up to 100 will be invaluable.

English

During English lessons this term, we will be looking at the features of instructions. The children will develop their knowledge of writing command sentences and begin to explore directions through Neil Gaiman's, *Instructions*. We explore with a heavy focus on punctuation, in particular apostrophes. The children will be learning how to add more detail to their sentences through expanded noun phrases.

Our poetry unit this term will focus on humorous poems, beginning with *Aliens Stole my Underpants* by Brian Moses.

Our second fiction unit explores traditional tales and fables from other cultures. They continue to develop their knowledge of different sentence types and explore subordinating and coordinating conjunctions.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be a focus through our English work. We have spelling tests every Wednesday, words of which are a combination of common exception words, key vocabulary covered in class and the year 2 statutory spellings. We will work on sentence structure throughout the term and build upon existing knowledge of punctuation. We also use Alan Peat sentence types to enable the children to develop a deeper knowledge of different sentence structures.

As we have nearly completed phase 5 of phonics, the children will continue with daily phonics lessons covering all of Phase 5's phonemes and spellings in a range of interactive and consolidating activities for the first few weeks. However once complete, phonics will become integrated into our daily lessons including guided reading and shared writes, it will also be offered as an additional intervention for those who need it.

In addition, we will begin to put a greater emphasis on learning and using cursive handwriting.

Science

This term, our science topic will be Everyday Materials: Materials Matter. The children will investigate and explore the properties and uses of everyday materials. They will also learn about the best materials for different purposes and how materials can be changed.

History – Spring 1

Our next history topic will be Marvelous Medicines. The children will learn about Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale, their influence and impact over modern medicines and hospitals, and the origins of the NHS.

Geography – Spring 2

After half term, the children will be learning about Sri Lanka; its culture, local produce, exports, animals and location in the world. This is a colourful, engaging and interactive unit which includes a workshop (more details to follow) in which the children make and try Sri Lankan produce, try traditional Sri Lankan attire and create pieces of Sri Lankan art work.

Art – Spring 1

Art and DT will be taught this year by Mrs Painter-Chapman (Mrs P.C) during my planning, preparation and assessment time on a Thursday morning.

Expressive painting: During this half term, the children will be introduced to the idea that they can use paint in an intuitive and exploratory way. We will start with an introduction to artists who use paint and colour to create exciting gestural and abstract work. We will explore primary colours and secondary colours through expressive mark making, connecting colour, mark making and texture (of paint) through abstract work. Pupils will

explore the brush work of two old masters and focus in on details of paintings to understand how they built the work. Pupils then go on to draw from a colourful still life, finally making expressive and gestural paintings with acrylic paint. Sketchbooks are used throughout to record, experiment and reflect.

Be an Architect: This project gives pupils the opportunity to explore architecture. We will start with an exploration of architects and some of the ways they work, and pupils will then go on to create their own architectural model. We will look at the work of Hundertwasser and Zaha Hadid

DT – Spring term 2

We will continue to look at mechanisms and wheels and axles this half term.

Computing

We begin every half term with an online safety lesson and the children sign a computing promise at the start of the year, promising to always be respectful, safe and careful when using IT.

Spring 1 – **Programming** – Robot algorithms – This unit develops the children's understanding of instructions in sequences and the use of logical reasoning to predict outcomes. They will use given commands in different orders to investigate how the order affects the outcome. They will also learn about design in programming.

Spring 2 – **Data and Information** – Pictograms – This unit introduces the children to the term 'data'. They will begin to understand what data means and how this can be collected in the form of a tally chart. They will learn the term 'attribute' and use this to help them organise data. They will then progress onto presenting data in the form of pictograms and finally block diagrams.

Music - Spring 1

In music this half term we will be following the Charanga scheme of work. It is a 6-week unit of work which includes musical warm up games with emphasis on vocal warmups, rhythm, pulse tempo, pitch etc. Music has a pulse, a steady beat, music is also made up of long and short and high and low sounds, called 'rhythm' and 'pitch'. These elements combine when we sing and play. As we listen to, sing, play and dance to the music in this unit, we explore these elements of music and how they work together.

Religious Education - Spring 2

The taught R.E syllabus is not intended to convert pupils or promote any particular religion or belief. Its aim is to foster understanding and respect for different religions and beliefs, and to prepare students to live confidently in a diverse, modern Britain and the wider world.

After half term, pupils will explore Hinduism and Islam including; beliefs and values, religious traditions, how Hindu's and Muslims worship and show gratitude, shared human experience and personal meaning.

Other important information

P.E this year will continue to be on Mondays. For the first half term the focus in P.E is dance which will continue to be taught off site.

Please ensure your child brings their plastic wallet/book bag to school **every day** and please check this daily for correspondence from school, homework and to read daily. Reading for just five minutes a day can rapidly improve your child's exposure to vocabulary, aid comprehension and support their development.

I will set homework on a Friday and the children will be expected to complete and return the work by the following Thursday. Golden Time will be used to complete homework if not handed in, this is so that I can sit with the children to ensure comprehension and offer support if needed. Homework will always be revision/consolidation of what is being covered in class and will at times be differentiated depending on the target areas of each child's needs.

Please ensure your child brings a reusable water bottle to school and a healthy snack can be brought for morning break time.

The Year 2 Team are always available to contact via Dojo with any concerns or queries however please note we are unlikely to reply (unless urgent) during quiet hours. If you wish to speak face to face please arrange an appointment via the school office or for more informal chats I can be caught at the end of the day.

We look forward to continuing working with you and your child this year.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lunn, Mrs P.C, Mrs Newton and Bell