



# Year 2 Autumn Newsletter



Welcome back Everyone! We hope you have lots of energy for our exciting topics this year! Thank you for your support as always with water bottles, book bags and PE kits. The children have settled in well and are keen and eager to learn! Mrs Miller teaches the children until lunchtime on Thursdays when Mrs Tattersdill, our PE Subject Leader will take the children for PE in the afternoon. Mrs Craft teaches on Fridays when our focus is RE, PSHE and ICT. We are very lucky to have the wonderful Mrs Mavi supporting us all week!

## English

This term our English work will be based around some lovely books connected to our 'Habitats' work in Science, starting with *The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark* (one of my all-time favourites). We will write letters and poems as well as information texts. We introduce the different word classes and learn how to identify nouns, verbs and adjectives. Spelling and handwriting will be a key focus throughout the year as will developing our reading and comprehension skills. Children will continue to access Read Write Inc Phonics until they finish the scheme when they will then take part in whole class guided reading sessions to further build on fluency and comprehension skills. Weekly spellings will be available on Seesaw. Spellings will be tested weekly on Fridays. After half-term, our exciting topic, *The Great Fire of London*, provides us with lots of exciting writing opportunities, further developing our grammar and spelling work at the same time. We will write diary entries like Samuel Pepys and bake our own bread, writing instructions. We continue to develop our fluency and comprehension skills and introduce the Reading Vipers skills as part of our whole class reading. Joined handwriting will also be introduced and our focus will be accurate letter formation, sizing and spacing.

## Mathematics

We begin the year with lots of work to develop our fluency in number facts and by reinforcing our understanding of numbers to one hundred, including the place value of digits. This term we concentrate on ordering, comparing and writing numerals and number words to 100. We also develop an understanding of place value in two digit numbers, for example knowing that 72 is  $70+2$ . We will continue to work on addition and subtraction facts up to 20 fluently, and derive and use related facts up to 100 as well as counting in steps of 2, 3, 5 and 10. In shape we will be identifying and describing the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. And comparing and sorting shapes. We continue to use lots of practical resources and active learning in our maths lessons to really bring the topics to life! Please practise counting on from any number to 100 and counting back (which is something the children often find tricky).

**RE** We begin our school year looking at Beginnings. We will look at *The Creation* and new beginnings in our life. This leads us on to *Signs and Symbols* where we will look at Baptism. We will study a world religion, this term it is Judaism. Children will discover the food Jews eat during special celebrations as well as increasing their knowledge of the Jewish religion. Our final topic of the half term, 'Preparations' leads us into Christmas. We explore how Christians prepare for Christmas and understand more detail in the Christmas story. Throughout the term children will be involved in planning and leading liturgical prayer.

Please make sure coats and jumpers are labelled—it saves us so much time! Thank you!

**Science** We begin with learning all about living things, habitats and food chains. We develop our scientific sorting and grouping skills and we begin to develop our understanding of how plants and animals depend on each other. After half-term, we begin to investigate different materials and their properties, learning about the importance of recycling.

**Geography** We begin the term learning about Planet Earth which is a great place to start! We find out about our oceans and continents as well as the Equator. We learn how to make maps and use a compass. Once again we think about how to protect the future of our amazing planet.

**History** After half-term we begin our fascinating topic about The Great Fire of London where we travel back in time to discover what life was like in London in 1666. We compare it to the lesser known 'Great Fire of Gateshead' of 1854. I

**Computing** This term we will continue to use Purple Mash to support our ICT curriculum. We begin the term learning how to use the computer to make music and children will become composers. We will also look at presenting ideas. We end the term with work on spreadsheets.

**PHSE** We will explore our relationships with others, recognising when it is ok to make mistakes. We explore behaviour and the responsibility of caring for others including animals.

## PE

Lessons will be on Thursday afternoons. Our 'My Personal Best' words we will be working on are '*Concentration*' and '*Imagination*'.

For our physical skills we are working on: striking, catching, throwing and dribbling a ball as well as attacking and defending skills. We will learn how to play cooperatively and competitively in small teams looking closely at rules. In gymnastics we will focus on jumping and rolling and creating sequences on and off the apparatus. Our dance will link to the Great Fire of London where we will compose and perform. Throughout the term we will focus on our social and thinking skills and how to have fun whilst keeping active.

## Music

This term we learn that the speed of the beat can change and we will recognise changes in tempo. We also begin to use stick notation including crochets, crotchet rests and quavers. Mrs Taylor from Tees Valley Music will lead our sessions.

## Reading Books

In Year 2 we ask that reading books come into school each day. We will still keep them on Fridays and send home on Monday. We will review this at half-term to see if it has been useful.

The children still have Reading Eggs with a wide variety of books available in the on-line library—so plenty to keep them busy at the weekend. Please listen to your child each night for 10 minutes and talk to them about the text. Re-reading the text several times is one of the most valuable ways to improve their fluency. Please write down a comment in the reading record book as this provides valuable evidence of your child's progress.

**Please upload a short video of your child reading weekly at home to Seesaw. I**

It is most useful if the video shows the page and the text as the child reads along. Your comments and videos help us to provide useful evidence of your child's reading journey.

**Art & DT** Our lovely topics allow us lots of opportunity for artistic activities including printing, drawing, painting, sculpting as well as collage and model-making. We begin by creating our own self-portraits as we celebrate our new Class Family!

