

25th April 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after the Easter holidays. We have two exciting topics planned for this half term, starting with a science topic in which we will be learning all about **"Plants"**, before moving onto a topic entitled **"Our School Pond"** in which we will be investigating the wildlife living within our school grounds. This half term is very busy for Year 2 as the children will be doing their SATs tests in May. The children have all been working very hard in preparation for these and are keen to show how much they have learnt since they first started school.

Once again, thank you for all your continued support - it is very much appreciated.

Mrs Alice Stearn

<p>English</p> 	<p>This half term, the children will be using their skills to write for a range of purposes including letters, recounts, explanations and instructions. The children will have regular opportunities to develop their reading fluency and the year 2s will be working on their target of reading an age appropriate book with good pace and intonation (about 90 words per minute). We will continue to work on reading comprehension skills, and will be reminding the children to refer back to the text when answering questions. During our daily phonics sessions and English sessions, we will exploring a range of spelling patterns and word groups, and also revising the grammatical features which have been introduced this year.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>During maths lessons, pupils will continue to focus on developing confidence when using a range of different strategies to support calculations. Children will be encouraged to develop their mental arithmetic skills and expand their understanding of place value. The children will practise reading word problems, identifying the calculation(s) needed and showing their working out clearly. They will also be learning about a range of measures, including capacity, weight(mass) and length. It is great to see the children practising their Learn Its every morning, and getting quicker at recalling number facts including the 2x, 5x, 10x and 3x tables.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>As part of our topic about plants, the children will be labelling the different parts of a flowering plant and finding out about their function. We will be thinking about the conditions for growth and planting a range of bulbs and seeds in order to observe the changes that take place. The children will be carrying out their own investigations and will be developing their skills when asking questions, making predictions and thinking about how to make the test fair by controlling the variables. We will also be using pond dipping equipment and identification charts to learn about the diverse wildlife living in our school pond.</p>

<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>Our computing lessons, this half term, will focus on simple programming. We will be using Scratch Junior which allows children to snap together graphical programming blocks in order to make characters move, jump, dance and sing. The children will also be using programmable toys, such as Beebots, and instructing them to move around a course.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>Our history focus this half term will be linked to our artwork. We will learn about the life and works of the artist Vincent Van Gogh. The children will become familiar with some of his famous paintings and use these to inspire their own artwork.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Art sessions will support our topic work this half term, and will incorporate a range of different skills such as colour mixing, painting, and drawing using pen and ink. We will be using Van Gogh's paintings as a source of inspiration for our own artwork, and try to recreate his stunning "Sunflowers" masterpiece.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>The children will be learning Springtime songs and new songs that we sing altogether in school assemblies.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children continue have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session a week. The indoor session this half term will be led by fitness instructor Nicola Allison who, alongside Mrs Bond, will introduce the children to Zumba (exercise to music). The outdoor sessions will focus on a programme of athletics in preparation for our annual Sports' Morning.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>In RE lessons, pupils will be thinking about the question "Who was Jesus and why is he inspiring to some people?" We will be exploring the stories about Jesus in the New Testament of the Bible and learning about the messages within these stories.</p>
<p>PSHE, Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>This half term, our whole school focus is on the value of being responsible. The children will be thinking about their responsibilities when it comes to looking after themselves and the environment. Issues such as caring for our planet, and keeping ourselves safe and healthy will be discussed.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (school books or home books are fine) • Writing (stories, diaries, recounts, book reviews) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Shopping (using coins and getting change) • Telling the time • Learning Times Tables (starting with 2s, 5s and 10s, then 3s and 4s)