

26th February 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back after the half term holiday. I hope you all had a restful break and I am delighted to see the children back with the same enthusiasm for learning! Amazingly, we are over half way through this academic year, and once again, I would like to outline the curriculum for this half term, including ideas for the children to continue their learning at home.

Towards the end of this half term, we will be welcoming student teacher Miss Chant into Year 2. Miss Chant has already had several visit days and is getting to know the children. She will be with us for 10 weeks as she completes her final teaching practice at Castle Park School.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Mrs Leck

<p>English</p> 	<p>Our literacy lessons, this half term, will continue to develop children's understanding of spelling, grammar and punctuation. We will be identifying verbs, adverbs, nouns and adjectives in sentences, and using past and present tense verbs correctly. The children will continue to learn the Year Two Common Exception Words to improve spelling accuracy, and be exploring a range of spelling patterns using suffixes and prefixes. The children will be writing for a range of purposes, including riddles, recounts and explanations. This half term, we are also focusing on developing reading stamina and fluency, and learning how to refer back to a text in order to answer comprehension questions.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>Our maths lessons will continue to focus on developing confidence using a range of different strategies to support calculations. We will be encouraging the children to develop their mental arithmetic skills, and increase their knowledge of multiplication and division facts. We will be recapping methods to support addition and subtraction calculations, and consolidate knowledge and understanding of place value. We will continue to develop children's skills when solving word problems and secure written methods for showing calculations. The children will also be developing their knowledge of telling the time, using both digital and analogue clocks.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>At the start of this half term, we will be continuing our topic on dinosaurs and looking at variation and adaptation within a species. The children will be grouping dinosaurs into herbivores and carnivores, explaining the different features of these groups. In addition to completing our work on dinosaurs, the children will complete a short topic about the conditions needed for plants to grow. We will be planting seeds and carrying out experiments to discover the conditions in which plants grow best.</p>
<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>This half term the children will be developing their typing skills and becoming more confident in locating keys on the keyboard. We will also be using the school ipads to research dinosaur facts in order to enhance our topic work.</p>

<p>Music</p> 	<p>In our music lessons, the children will be exploring rhythm and beat, and will use body percussion and instruments to follow and develop a musical pattern. We will be learning a range of seasonal songs in our singtime sessions.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p>	<p>Our artwork will continue to support our topic work. We will be using clay to create dinosaur fossils, and making our own printing blocks to create a repeating pattern linked to the patterns and textures of dinosaur skins.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>Our indoor P.E. session will focus on using the large and small apparatus. The children will be encouraged to think of different ways to travel along the apparatus, hold a balance, and demonstrate good posture and control. Our outdoor P.E. slot this half term, is being used for our Forest School programme led by Mrs Wright.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>This half term, the Religious Education focus will be "Easter". The children will be thinking about ways in which Easter is a celebration of new life. They will also be looking in the New Testament to read and then retell the Easter story.</p>
<p>School Values</p> 	<p>Our School Value this half term is "Respect" and pupils will be thinking about how we can respect ourselves, others and our environment. Our Forest School programme encourages the children to work together, follow instructions and look after and appreciate the variety of flora and fauna around us.</p>
<p>Citizenship and Global Awareness</p> 	<p>At this time each year the children are encouraged to think about Fairtrade, and how we can help others in poorer countries by buying Fairtrade products. The children will be thinking about the range of fairtrade products there are to buy, and how whole communities can benefit by paying farmers a fair price.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>The children will be locating the origin of Fairtrade products on a World Map, and thinking about the journey these products have made in order to get into our shops.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>Our dinosaur topic will give children the opportunity to think about animals that inhabited the earth millions of years ago and are now extinct. They will be learning about fossils and how they tell us what dinosaurs looked like. The children will also be finding out about the life and work of Mary Anning who became known around the world for important finds she made in Jurassic marine fossil beds in the cliffs along the English Channel at Lyme Regis.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home in addition to the weekly spellings and Friday Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for Fairtrade products at the shops. • Think about ways to recycle, reduce or reuse items at home to protect our environment. • Create a fact file about dinosaurs • Plant some seeds and watch them grow. • Read every day. • Practise the 2x, 5x 10x and 3x tables and know these facts off by heart. • Keep a diary.