

5th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are now well into the Autumn term and once again I would like to outline the topics we will be covering in Year 2. We will continue to learn about famous people from the past and start this half term with the story of **Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot**. We will then move on to look at the traditions and customs associated with the Hindu celebration of **Diwali**. The children will also take part in an exciting **Science and Technology Project**, linked with BAE, in which they will be designing and making structures inspired by the Three Little Pigs story. We will be encouraging the children to think about others through events such as **Remembrance Day**, the **Shoebox Appeal** and **Children in Need**. Throughout all these topics the children will be developing and applying the core skills of reading, writing and maths.

As we head towards the end of term, our focus will turn to **Christmas** and we will be learning songs and enjoying art and craft activities which enhance this special time of year. Unfortunately there will be no EYFS/KS1 Christmas Nativity Performance this year, but we will try and recreate some of the magic within our classroom setting.

I am so proud of the way the children have returned to school with determination and resilience. They are working so hard and making great progress. It is lovely to share some of their experiences and successes with you on our ClassDojo, and I enjoy seeing what the children have been doing at home on their individual portfolio pages.

Thank you for your support as always. It is much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Leck

<p>English</p> 	<p>During our English lessons we will use a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to support our topics, and be a stimulus for reading, writing, speaking and listening. Specifically we will be identifying adjectives, verbs and nouns within sentences and also looking at how a range of punctuation is used within texts. We will be identifying and writing command sentences, including writing instructions. We will be retelling familiar stories, and using first hand experiences to develop skills in writing for different purposes. We will continue to support the children to develop a neat, cursive, handwriting style with regular handwriting practice and teaching of specific joins. Our daily phonics sessions will look at a range of spelling patterns to support writing and reading development. All Year 2 children will take part in a <u>Statutory Phonics Screening Check</u> this half term that was due to take place in June 2020, but was postponed due to school closures.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>Our maths lessons this half term will start with recapping strategies to solve addition and subtraction calculations, applying these strategies when solving written problems. We will then move onto a unit about money in which the children will be recognising coins and notes, counting money to make different amounts, finding the difference between two amounts and using this information to work out the correct change. Towards the end of this term we will introduce the children to the multiplication facts for the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Throughout this half term, we will be challenging the children to use facts they know to help them solve new problems and be able to explain their reasoning.</p>
<p>Science</p> 	<p>In science, this half term, we will continue our ongoing topic about healthy lifestyles, including emphasising the importance of good handwashing to get rid of germs. We will be observing changes to the weather and using data to talk about seasonal changes. We will be identifying some of the trees in our school grounds and grouping them according to whether they are deciduous or evergreen.</p>
<p>IT and Computing</p> 	<p>This half term, the children will be developing their typing and word processing skills. We will be using the BBC Bitesize Dance Mat Typing programme to develop an awareness of the position of keys on the keyboard, and then move onto creating a word document in which the children will develop the skills of changing and editing the font, size and colour of their text.</p>

<p>History</p> 	<p>This half term, we will be learning about Remembrance Sunday and appreciating why people buy and wear poppies at this time of year. We will also be learning about the life of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot and thinking about different sources of evidence.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>In our Geography lessons, we will be identifying seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles. We will be identifying the seven continents of the world and learning the names of the oceans.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Our Design and Technology project this year is linked to a STEM project (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) supported by BAE, in which the children will be building and testing different structures inspired by the "Three Little Pigs" story. Our artwork, this half term, will be linked to our topics and the children will have the opportunity to use a range of materials such as paint, pen and ink and clay to create a range of pictures and models. We also have Christmas/Winter crafts and activities planned for December.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>This half term, we will be learning a range of traditional Christmas carols and seasonal songs. The children will be trying to learn some of these songs off by heart and sing confidently in front of their peers.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session each week. The indoor session will focus on developing a sequence of moves and floor exercises from the Key Steps Gymnastics Programme for KS1 children. The outdoor session will focus on passing and receiving an object, such as a ball, using hands, feet, bats and hockey sticks.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>This half term, we will thinking about "Celebrations". We will learn about the Hindu celebration of Diwali and the children will think about special celebrations in their own lives. As we move towards Christmas, the children will be thinking about the question "Why are celebrations important to religions?" with particular reference to the Christian and Islam faiths.</p>
<p>Global Learning</p> 	<p>Our Global Awareness curriculum will focus on helping others who are less fortunate than ourselves. We will be talking to the children about the shoebox appeal, and how the lives of children from poorer countries can be enhanced by our gifts. We will also be thinking about how the Poppy Appeal and Children in Need events help people in our communities.</p>
<p>PSHCE and Citizenship</p> 	<p>Our citizenship sessions will focus on our school values. This half term, we will be thinking about being "Resourceful". We will be encouraging the children to think of solutions themselves and not giving up at the first hurdle.</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (school books or home books) • Writing (stories, diaries, recounts, book reviews) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Going for a walk and looking for signs of Autumn. • Using BBC Dance Mat Typing website to practise typing skills.