



# Class 2's Newsletter - Autumn 2017

## Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Class 2! I hope that you had a wonderful Summer Break. I am looking forward to the new challenges that Year 2 has to offer your child and we have a brilliant year planned. This newsletter is to inform you about what your child will be learning and taking part in this term in Year 2.

## Topic

Our topic for this term is Street Detectives. We shall be exploring Armitage and finding out what it is like today and also what it was like in the past. Some of the areas we shall be covering are making a model village, identifying important people in our community, learning about Lichfield, thinking of ways we can improve our local area, replicating the work of James Rizzi and learning about our school in the past. We will also be sending home a questionnaire for you to complete about people who live in our area who are famous or work hard to support our village. If you have any interesting information or books that we could borrow to help us learn more, we would love to borrow them. During French lessons we will be learning the names of different types of transport and buildings and beginning to put these words and phrases into a sentence. As part of the computing curriculum, the children will learn how to give a set of instructions to a robot and will use a computer programme to draw graphics. In RE lessons, we will be discussing how to care for the natural world and learning about the birth of Jesus.

## Literacy

During the Autumn Term, the children will be using fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts to help develop their literacy skills including reading, writing, spelling and handwriting. Amongst other writing opportunities, I will be teaching how to write a diary entry, write a story based on others, write an information text, instructions and a list poem. We will be focussing on the basic skills of writing including full stops, capital letters, word spaces, use of adjectives and expanded noun phrases.

When reading different texts, we will be skimming and scanning the text to locate the answers to questions and give opinions on the texts that we are reading. During Handwriting lessons, the children will be starting to learn how to join their letters. Initially, the children will begin to use the joins that they learn during wider writing opportunities so please support them to do this at home as well. The neatness and accuracy of their joining will develop and improve over the year. In order to teach the children how to spell, they will be coming home with a mixture of spellings linked to our phonics and spelling teaching and common exception words (words that we are unable to 'sound out.' Please help the children to learn these at home as they will be tested on them in school. More details about spelling will follow with the first set of spellings to learn in a few weeks.

### **Numeracy**

Over this term, the children will be working with numbers to 100 and beyond. The children will learn how to read, write, order, add and subtract using these numbers. When adding and subtracting, the children will learn how to do so using the traditional vertical method. During mental maths, the children will be encouraged to improve the speed of their mental calculations with a particular focus on addition to 20 or 100 and the multiplication facts of the 10, 2 and 5 times tables. Any support learning these facts at home would be very beneficial. Also, lessons will include learning how to calculate multiplication and division using arrays and repeated addition. There will be a large focus this year on using these skills in order to solve problems and to verbally explain their answers or ideas on how to find a solution. A little later on in the term, we will be learning the value of coins and notes, finding equivalent ways to make that value including calculating change and converting pounds and pence.

### **Science**

This half term the children will be exploring the properties of materials and what they are used for. They will distinguish between natural and man-made materials and explore how materials can be changed by twisting, squeezing, squashing etc. We will be comparing materials used

for a similar job and explaining our own ideas and observations using more scientific vocabulary. When planning and completing experiments, the children will be making predictions, recording results in a table and explaining what they have found out. I would also like the children to begin offering their own ideas on how to investigate and work together in a group in order to complete experiments.

## **PE**

We shall be having our PE lessons on Wednesdays, Thursdays and alternate Mondays. The children will use their PE Kit for each session. Please could you make sure that your child's kit is labelled as it makes it so much easier to return if it gets mislaid or lost. Could you also please make sure that if your child wears earrings that they are removed for these lessons, or that they can remove them themselves, otherwise they will not be able to take part in the lessons. Your child will be taking part in indoor and outdoor activities. They will need an indoor and outdoor PE kit for these sessions. The outdoor kit consists of dark tracksuit bottoms and sweatshirt, white t-shirt and a pair of suitable trainers. The indoor kit consists of a plain white t-shirt, black shorts and pumps.

## **Homework and Reading**

Each Friday the children will be given a piece of Numeracy or Literacy homework which will be due in on a Tuesday. Please support your child and encourage them to complete their homework as it helps children practise and apply skills they have learned in school. If for any reason you and your child can not complete the homework on time, then do not hesitate to come and see me. We will read with the children on a Monday and a Thursday. Please put a comment in their reading record book after you have listened to them read noting how they got on, words that they struggled with and any discussions the book may have instigated. Please ensure that the children have their books in school everyday as we often have extra reading sessions.

## **SATs**

This year, the children will be completing assessments created by the government for Year 2 children. This is to track their progress and to assess them against age related objectives. They will be tested on their

ability in reading, maths and spelling, punctuation and grammar. Their writing ability will be assessed over the year. We will try and ensure that these tests are completed under relaxed conditions so that the children experience no pressure and just try their best. I encourage parents to continue this ethos at home to avoid unnecessary worry for the children, and as long as we work together, then your child will achieve their full potential. More details about these tests will follow, including when these tests will take place and how they will be administered. Please come and see me if you have any questions or concerns in this area.

### **Reminder**

The children will need to bring in a water bottle every day. This needs to be water rather than squash or flavoured water please.

The door to the playground will be kept locked until the bell has gone in the morning as we are concerned about the safety of the children if left unsupervised. Please ensure that you wait with the children on the playground until I have collected them and taken them inside. If it is raining, please come straight into the classroom and stay with your child until the bell rings and a member of staff has arrived.

If the children would like toast in the morning break, please ensure that the children have their 20p piece each day in order to develop their independence in paying ready for KS2. If the children would like to bring in their own break, we ask that this could be as healthy as possible to help the children learn effectively in the morning. The children will be offered a piece of fruit in the afternoon, however this is the only snack they are allowed at this time.

I hope you find this newsletter useful, but if you have any concerns or questions which the newsletter does not answer then please do not hesitate to come in and see me before or after school.

I look forward to working with you over the coming year!

Mrs S Richards