



Class 2's Newsletter - Autumn 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Class 2! I hope that you had a wonderful Summer Break. I am really looking forward to be back in Year 2 and teaching your children. We have planned an exciting recovery curriculum to help the children to fill in the gaps that they may have due to the events that happened during the past school year. The classroom is quite different as the children are sitting in rows facing the front but on their table they have their own individual wallets with all the resources that they need to help them access the work that is being set. We are also taking part in regular brain breaks to help them to concentrate and focus on their work.

Topic

Over the next half term we will be focusing on three texts *Kites* by Simon Mole, *After the Fall* by Dan Santat and *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers. They will be an exciting way for the children to access those areas of the curriculum that we feel they need to focus on. They will focus upon each book for two weeks at a time. In our topic *Kites* they will be finding out about the history of kites, we will be making and evaluating kites and looking at air resistance. In the next book *After the Fall* they will be thinking about how to use materials to protect an egg's shell as it falls and they will be thinking about when they have been brave and courageous. In our final book *Here We Are* the children will be thinking about how to care for the environment and what we could do to lessen our impact on the world.

Literacy

During the Autumn Term, the children will be using the fiction texts mentioned above and non-fiction texts to help develop their literacy skills including reading, writing, spelling and handwriting. Amongst other writing opportunities, I will be teaching them how to use adjectives to describe a person, to write a set of instructions using bossy verbs and how to write a

newspaper article. We will be focusing 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 this half term the children will focus upon the formation of lower case, capital letters and numbers to ensure that they will be ready to start joining later in the year. Spelling lessons and tests will firstly focus on Year 1 common exception words before focussing on a mixture of spellings linked to our phonics. The children have all been sent home with the Year 1 common exception words to learn (in their green homework folders) and also interesting ways in which they can practise them. Please help the children to learn these at home as they will be tested on them in school. In phonics, the school follows the Letters and Sounds phonics scheme. The children will be revising phase 3 and 4 and will be continuing to work through Phase 5.

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 a variety of different methods. They will also be working on their number bonds to 10, such as $8 + 2 = 10$, $5 + 5 = 10$ and they will begin to multiply and divide. Whilst also using language to describe properties of 2D and 3D shapes, and compare shapes by comparing their properties. On Wednesday afternoons with Mrs Stanley they will be telling the time, including o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. The children will also be encouraged to improve the speed of their mental calculations in mental maths sessions. Any support learning these facts at home would be very beneficial.

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.

PE

We shall be having our PE lessons on Wednesday afternoon. The children will need to come to school in their PE kit. This should consist of trainers, a plain white t-shirt, plain, dark shorts, plain, dark tracksuit bottoms and their school jumper or cardigan. 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. Most lessons will be outside where possible but in wet weather these will take place in the hall.

Homework and Reading

Each Friday the children will be given a piece of Numeracy or Literacy homework which will be due in on a Monday. Please try and return the homework promptly as the folders will need to be quarantined before they can be marked and sent out again. 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 email me at staff31@croft.staffs.sch.uk or phone the school office and Mrs Bailey will pass on the message. We will read with the children on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. More details about when the children will need to bring their reading book into school will be sent out in a separate letter. 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.

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 email me if you have any concerns about this at Staff31@croft.staffs.sch.uk

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.

If the children would like to bring in their own breakfast rather than toast, we ask that this could be as healthy as possible to help the children learn effectively in the morning.

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. You can also contact me via email:

Staff31@croft.staffs.sch.uk

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

Mrs L Astley