



Year 2 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 12th September 2016

Dear Parents

In assembly this week, Mrs Harries talked to the children about the importance of our hands and the children thought of many creative and inventive ways in which our hands are used, from clapping and eating, through to waving and sewing! The importance of kind hands was discussed too.

Literacy lessons

In literacy lessons we have been reading and writing words containing the grapheme 'ea' as well as verbs ending with the 'ing' suffix. The children have particularly enjoyed developing their writing skills through our 'mystery picture challenges'. These involve quickly writing down a word or sentence to describe the picture which is gradually revealed by our whiteboard sunscreens.

This week saw the introduction of 'group guided reading' lessons. Working with small groups, these sessions enable us to work closely with every child as they read, re-read and discuss a carefully chosen text which is matched to their particular level of literacy development. Every group also spends one session demonstrating their comprehension of the text through a variety of independent activities.

Dragons have 'fired' the children's creative writing this week. Inspired by the beautifully illustrated 'Tell Me a Dragon' (by Jackie Morris) the children's fantastic descriptions have included 'She was as small as a buttercup', 'His sapphire blue eyes twinkled in the moonlight' and 'She breathed lavender-scented snowflakes.'

Maths lessons

We have been developing estimating strategies by grouping larger quantities of objects into 5s and 10s. Children worked in teams to estimate quantities of coins, feathers, pasta, sticks and tokens. Many children were astonished by just how accurate their quick estimates were when they used this method.

Our main focus this week has been extending the children's knowledge of number bonds. The children have been learning to write the related addition and subtraction calculations which are derived from a trio of numbers. For example: 20, 13, 7, results in $13 + 7 = 20$; $7 + 13 = 20$; $20 - 7 = 13$ and $20 - 13 = 7$.

Other lessons and activities

Every child has become a 'dragon artist' this week. Some stunning, intricately detailed dragons will shortly be appearing in the Year 2 corridor as part of our Town Close dragon trail. This dragon drawing activity not only develops the children's artistic skills, but also the vital attributes of perseverance, attention to detail and stamina.

In science we have been considering which materials would be most suitable for building a dragon's nest. We were impressed by how thoughtfully and systematically the children investigated a variety of materials which they had to grade according to their strength, softness, warmth and permeability.

In RS we have been contemplating 'What is beautiful in nature?' and have started to create 'Our beautiful world' poems.

Please could you ensure that your children do not wear any jewellery to school.
Thank you.

Over the weekend you might to:

- Talk with your child about some of the new scientific vocabulary which we have discussed this week, including: permeability, insulating, flexible and rigid. Perhaps you could describe some of the materials which you find around your home and consider why they have been chosen for their particular purpose.
- Encourage your child to re-read some of their home reading books. This is vital to ensure that they fully understand the text, read with expression and show awareness of different punctuation, things that can be missed when initially reading a page because processing power is often weighted towards decoding words rather than fully understanding the text. This is also very helpful when your child comes to punctuating longer pieces of their own writing.
- You might also help by modelling how to read some passages (emphasising your expression and awareness of punctuation) before asking your child to have a go. Most children enjoy this as it takes the pressure off them to decode the text so that they can focus on other skills.

Dates for your Diary:

PTA Family Swim Club is moving to Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00.

Learning through play is a fun and effective way to increase your child's skills in the pool and these sessions provide the opportunity to play with the floats and dive for the sinkers under the watchful eye of Miss Bryant who is a fully qualified lifeguard.

All Town Close families are warmly invited to a free trial session on **Wednesday 21st September**. Please meet in the swimming pool foyer at 4:00pm with your swimming things. Full information about how to join for the term or come to sessions on a one-off basis will then be sent to parents next Friday.

Tuesday 27th September: Year 2 trip to Easton College

Friday 21st October – 8.30am-10.00am: Grandparents' coffee morning in the Pre Prep hall and visit to the classrooms

Thursday 6th October – 5.00pm onwards: 'settling in' parents' evening. Parents will be able to book an appointment slot from 4.00pm on Monday 19th September – please see booking instructions below:

Online booking system: Log into the Parents' Area of the School's website using the username: **parents** and the password: **children**. Click on 'Pre Prep Area' (in the right hand column) followed by the link 'Pre Prep Parents' Evening' (in the right hand

column). Enter your child's name in the box and press 'submit'. You will see a list of times – please click on one of the 'Book' buttons.

Friday 21st October: Break up for half term

Monday 7th November: Start of second half of term

Thursday 1st December – 8.30am-10.00am: Year 2 coffee morning in the Pre Prep Hall, followed by the Year 2 Christmas production in the Read Hall

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Mrs Bush, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lawry and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries