



## Year 2 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Dear Parents

In assembly this week, Reverend Patrick came to visit and talked to the children about new beginnings, through the idea of day and night, new year's resolutions and Noah's ark. Bird Family meetings focused on sharing ideas about playground games and activities.

### **Literacy Lessons**

This week we have embarked on a fascinating discovery of homophones. Whilst a bugbear for many, the children have genuinely enjoyed realising that so many words sound the same but have different meanings and can be spelt in different ways. We were amazed to discover paw, pore, poor and pour! We have been adding drama to our reading following Wednesday's assembly in which we joined Years 3 and 4 and learnt about the history of story-telling. Some of us read aloud to Year 8 pupils who were most impressed by our expression and awareness of punctuation.

This week's spelling homework is to learn as many of the Year 2 'common exception words'. We have written out the first column as handwriting practice and would like everyone to learn these. If your child is confident with these, please go on to look at the rest of the list (which is in the middle of their spelling folders).

### **Maths lessons**

This week we have been assessing how well children have grasped the skills and strategies that we have covered this term. We have also been continuing our recent learning on telling the time as this is a tricky concept to master at a young age. Next term we shall be developing the children's understanding of fractions (starting with shapes and then moving onto the more abstract fractions of numbers). To prepare your child for this, you might like to use 'kitchen opportunities' by chopping up a variety of fruit and vegetables or by sharing out smaller pieces of food into equal groups.

This week we have given out a number square for homework with some numbers missing. Whilst many children will find this straightforward, it is vital to practise this so that everyone develops a 'virtual number square' in their heads.

### **Other lessons and activities**

We have enjoyed learning about the Bible story of Noah's Ark. We then went on to design our own arks which provided for the different requirements of our selected animals. Some incredibly detailed and thoughtful designs were created.

We all enjoyed a short walk to the Apple Store where the children impressed us with their confidence in using applications on the iPad, taking on board the instructions and guidance provided by the tutors. The workshop was linked to our Brilliant Buildings topic and children used pictures and their own knowledge of famous buildings as an inspiration for their work, which involved programming and layering sounds. The children particularly enjoyed sharing their work and getting plenty of positive feedback from their peers at the end of the workshop. The Apple store kindly donated t-shirts to all of the children, as well as providing USB wristbands on which their creations were saved.

**Over half-term:**

- Next term we will be moving on to our topic about 'Significant People'. Your child should have brought home a sheet which provides an outline for a short piece of research about a significant person (living, or no longer living, who has made a real contribution to the lives of others). Please could you help them to research using books, the computer or through visiting a museum. You might include a photo or they can try to draw the person. We were really pleased with the Famous Buildings homework so look forward to seeing their research. Please feel free to use your own sheets of paper or card to record their findings. We don't want to put you under any pressure but you are very welcome to create a poster if you prefer.

**Dates for your diary:**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March:** World Book Day – children may dress up as their favourite book character.

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 2 classes to Blickling Hall

We hope you have a lovely half term break with your children.

Mrs Bush, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lawry and Mrs Harries

*Melanie Harries*