



## Year 2 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Parents

On Monday, the Pre Prep children were invited to see the Year 7 and 8 dress rehearsal of *Cats*. The children were a fantastic audience and clearly enjoyed the show and the Year 7 and 8 children performed brilliantly.

On Tuesday Mrs Harries led an assembly about ideas, linked to *Cats*. She talked about how T S Eliot had written poems about cats which became the *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, which Andrew Lloyd Webber then made into a stage show. She explained that people had told Andrew that he was crazy to think of turning the poems into a stage show but that he was not put off and was determined to make it work and that 35 years after its first performance, it is still being widely performed! The message was make the most of your ideas, see how far you can take them; you may be amazed at what you can achieve! Bird Family meetings concentrated on understanding the differences between boasting and feeling proud.

### Literacy Lessons

This week we have looked closely at punctuation. The children are quite adept at basic capital letters and full stops so it is time for a challenge. In their reading books, your child will probably respond to the recognition of speech marks by changing the intonation of their voice. This is a key skill and one we hope they can begin to replicate in their own writing. From the humble speech bubble to intricate speech marks and accompanying commas, we have explored the many ways to record the spoken word. Beyond this, we have looked out for different words for 'said'. Examples have ranged from 'whispered' to 'demanded'. This broadening of the children's vocabulary can add impact to their writing.

Our spelling rule this week has been 'superlatives'. Many examples have needed a double consonant to extend the basic adjective. For 'sentence building' the children have been asked to include contractions, e.g. isn't, I've etc. within their work. We have covered this rule before in our teaching so it has been interesting to note how the task has been undertaken by different children in different ways. Our weekly handwriting exercises have continued as has our guided reading. Some children have read about different significant people and have enjoyed using their knowledge to answer probing questions in full sentences.

### Maths lessons

In mathematics, our focus has continued to be on telling the time, using both analogue and digital time. Quarter to the hour, translating into a different hour and 45 minutes has proved very challenging to a good number of children and we would ask parents to reinforce this concept at home if the opportunity arises! After this we

explored tally charts and pictograms. This visual aspect of mathematics has appealed greatly to many of our pupils.

### **Other lessons and activities**

In science, the classes have investigated the effects of water when mixed with different substances. From salt to florists' gel the results were unexpected and stimulated a lot of scientific discussion. Please ask your children to describe and explain what they discovered.

In art and DT our nimble fingers have begun the design and stitch for some colourful samplers. At the same time some beautiful watercolour paintings of flowers have neared completion.

### **Over the weekend:**

- Please could you help your child to learn half past, quarter past and quarter to on the analogue clock and their digital equivalent.
- Look out for different words for 'said' in their reading books.
- Please look out for signs of spring!
- Have a look at the attached Easter bonnet competition poster. If you are feeling creative and would like to enter, do bring in your completed bonnets on the first day of the summer term.

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Mrs Bush, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lawry and Mrs Harries

*Melanie Harries*