



Year 2 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 22nd May 2017

Dear Parents

Congratulations to all our Year 2 children for a super 'Kenyan' assembly on Tuesday! We were all very impressed at how well the children had learnt their poems, dances and lines. In Bird Family meetings this week we talked about how we learn and all the different ways in which this happens.

Literacy Lessons

We have been continuing to write stories which are interesting and enjoyable to read. The children have been using 'extended noun phrases' to include more detail in their descriptions of people and places. We have been practising using a range of different sentence types (statements, commands, questions and exclamations).

In our guided reading sessions, we have been developing the children's stamina, confidence and independence when approaching written comprehension tasks. We have been focusing on inferring more subtle meanings through the characters' behaviour and dialogue. This is a skill which many children find particularly challenging so please continue to talk about how different characters might be feeling (and ask your child to explain why) when you are reading with them at home.

Maths lessons

This week's focus has been finding fractions of a number (for example one third of 15). The children have enjoyed working in pairs as pizza chefs to divide various toppings equally between three slices (investigating one third or two thirds of different amounts).

We have also been assessing the children's grasp of the arithmetic and problem-solving skills which we have covered this half term.

Other lessons and activities

The first part of this week was spent developing performance skills as we practised for Tuesday's assembly. Thank you to everyone who came.

We have been out in the lovely sunshine investigating the 'microhabitats around our school' during science sessions. The children predicted which living things they expected to find in certain small areas (for example; in leaf litter, at the base of a tree, in a flower bed or in long grass). We then set out to see how many plants and creatures we could find. We were fascinated to discover centipedes, millipedes, slugs, beetles, woodlice, ants and worms under the tree stumps in the outdoor classroom.

In art we have been busy putting the finishing touches to our 'artist inspired' pictures for June's exhibition. In Silver Birch and Rowan, the focus has been creating depth and adding detail to our imaginary jungles inspired by the work of Henri Rousseau. In Cherry, the children have enjoyed using a variety of vibrant colours to paint their abstract pictures in the style of Paul Klee.

We have enjoyed some truly fascinating show and tell presentations about an incredibly diverse selection of animals, including peregrine falcons and electric eels. We have all been impressed by how clearly, confidently and enthusiastically the children have shared their research with their classes.

Over the holidays you may like to:

- *Look back over the spelling folder to remind children of all the words they have learnt this year.*
We have sent home the spelling folders with the 'noun phrase' homework but we have not included the usual spelling lists. You could then suggest that they have a look through it themselves and think carefully about the words independently during the holidays.
- *Take a few minutes each day to read with your child (discussing the vocabulary and asking questions to check their comprehension).*
This will really help them to develop the skills needed to 'read to learn' rather than simply 'learning to read'. Whilst many children are now beginning to enjoy longer picture books or simple chapter books, it is still vital that they spend a few minutes reading and discussing a few pages with you. Some children still need regular reminders to pay attention to the different punctuation marks which are used so that they fully understand the text. The children should also be developing their reading stamina so that they are able to enjoy longer, more detailed stories in the coming years.

Request

Some children have embraced the new 'Fidget Spinner' craze. We ask that, from after half-term, these are kept at home please. Thank you for your support in this.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 12th June at 2.15pm: Year 2 sports afternoon on the Prep Department front lawn

Tuesday 13th June – 'Purple Picnic' in aid of Nelson's Journey – children are invited to come dressed in purple or wearing a purple item and to bring in a donation for Nelson's Journey. We will be having a 'Purple Picnic' for lunch!

Friday 30th June at 9.00am: Year 2 concert in the Read Hall

Wednesday 28th June: Royal Norfolk Show – School closed

Tuesday 4th July: Moving up morning

Wednesday 5th July: Year 2 trip to Winterton Beach

The children have been working very hard and we hope that they all have a relaxing and enjoyable week.

Mrs Bush, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lawry and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries