



Year 2 Curriculum information

Week Beginning: 2nd October 2017

Dear Parents

In assembly this week, Mrs Harries introduced the children to a Quentin Blake character, Mrs Armitage, from the story *Mrs Armitage on Wheels*. The children were keen to join in with Mrs Armitage's voice at key points and discussed all the different ideas that she had along the way. We noted that she was happy to have a go at things, even though she could not always be sure of a positive outcome, and talked about the importance of perseverance and how well she demonstrated this. In Bird Family meetings, children considered the importance of careful listening and the need to hear both sides of a story, taking care not to make rash judgements.

Literacy Lessons

This week the children have:

- Developed their presentation skills by writing a final version of their 'On my day at the farm' poems.
- Extended their use of punctuation to include question marks and exclamation marks, with some children also beginning to use speech marks correctly in their Little Red Hen stories.
- Developed their stamina for writing and their ability to use varied and interesting vocabulary (particularly adjectives) through their retelling of The Little Red Hen.
- Practised spelling words which include 'i_e' and 'ar'.
- Developed their confidence at reading aloud to a small group, discussing the meaning and showing their understanding, through various comprehension activities in guided reading sessions.

Maths lessons

This week the children have:

- Extended their knowledge of doubles to include doubling 2 digit numbers. In order to do this quickly and accurately they have been learning to double the tens digit first, then the units digit and then add them together. For example: **Double 14** = $10 + 10 = 20$ then $4 + 4 = 8$ so $20 + 8 = 28$

We have also done the reverse to find half of two digit numbers. So **Half of 22** = half of $20 = 10$ then half of $2 = 1$ so **$10 + 1 = 11$**

- We have also looked at 'near doubles' so $6 + 7 =$ double 6 plus 1.

Other lessons and activities

We have had some more fascinating discussions in RE based around the question, 'Are we taking good care of our planet?'. The children then worked in pairs to discuss and sort various photos (including traffic jams, beehives, solar panels and allotments) into 'Yes, we are taking good care.' And 'No, we are not taking good care.'

In science, we have sorted foods into 'foods that we should eat regularly' and 'foods that we should eat less often'. The children enjoyed sampling various breakfast cereals as 'market research' before they go on to create their own healthy cereal next week. We used the information to create a class bar chart to show which cereal was the most

popular in each class. We also considered who the different cereal boxes might appeal to and why.

We continued our food theme in art by creating observational paintings of seasonal vegetables. We encouraged the children closely to observe details and are continuing to develop their watercolour painting skills (and use of watercolour pencils) as well as their ability to control a paintbrush carefully.

We have enjoyed some more fascinating Show and Tell presentations so thank you for all your efforts so far with rehearsing and preparing presentation posters, slideshows and prompt cards. We have been impressed by how confident and well prepared all the children have been.

Over the weekend you may like to:

- Help your child to learn their spellings as you have clearly been doing over the past few weeks. When writing out the spellings in their folders, please encourage your child to make sure that their 'ascending letters such as d, l, t, b, h and k are clearly taller than letters such as a and i. This is something which they have been trying hard with at school.
- Explore food packaging at home or in the supermarket. You might discuss what the packaging tells us about the food that it contains. You could also explore packages to find out where in the world the food has come from (particularly with packets of fresh fruit or vegetables). You might look in an atlas to see where some of these countries are.
- Next week we shall be exploring the story of the Elves and the Shoemaker. Along with reading different versions of the story, we are looking forward to a visit from the Puppet Theatre on Thursday. They will be helping the children to create their own elf puppets.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 11th October – 5.00pm 7.30pm: Pre Prep settling in parents' evening in the Pre Prep – please note the change of venue.

Online booking system for Parents' evening:

Go to the Parents' Booking System in the Parents' Information Centre on the school website and login using your email address and password. If you have not logged in before, your password will be townclose. Make sure you have the appropriate child selected. Click on the Parents' Evening button and click on a purple 'available' button. To cancel a previous booking, click the red 'cancel' button where you previously booked.

Friday 13th October: PTA Quiz Night in the Pre Prep Hall

Monday 16th October – 9.00am: PTA AGM and Coffee Morning

Friday 20th October – 2.00pm-3.00pm: Grandparents' afternoon in the Pre Prep Hall

Thursday 7th December – 2.15pm – 3.15pm: Year 2 Christmas Production

Thursday 14th December – 2.00pm – 3.00pm: Carol Service at Christchurch Eaton for Year 1 and Year 2 children

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

Mrs Hayes, Mrs Lawry, Miss Shepherd and Mrs Harries

