



Foxes Class Newsletter



Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2, which promises to be a very busy term, as we quickly lead up to Christmas. I hope you and the children enjoyed a rest last week and that the children are ready for another term full of exciting learning opportunities! Following the same structure as last term, I will be teaching in Year Two for the whole week, with the exception of Monday and Wednesday afternoons, when Mrs Berry will be teaching computing and science, as well as some phonics and spelling. Mrs Richardson and Miss Brincat will be our full time teaching assistants in Year Two.

With the continuing aim of working in partnership with you to support your child's learning, the following provides a brief outline of the teaching and learning that will take place across the curriculum in Foxes Class this term.

In **literacy** we will start with a focus on poetry, including listening to, learning, reading and writing poems. This will include lots of creative work around language. We will then be exploring narratives with recurring language patterns around the theme of winter stories. Within the literacy curriculum, we will teach daily phonics to support reading and spelling, and there will be a consistently strong focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar within literacy lessons. We will continue to teach guided reading every day, within which every child will read with an adult at least twice a week.

In **maths** we will cover a range of topics, including calculations in the context of money; multiplication and division; 2D and 3D shapes; and basic data handling. We will continue to secure the 2 and 10 times tables and regularly use and apply place value and basic number knowledge from term one. We will also be working to strengthen mental arithmetic skills and continually build in opportunities for reasoning and problem solving.

In **science** our topic this term, and continuing after Christmas, is 'Living things and their habitats', within which we will explore the seven life processes that all living things must do; investigate habitats in which living things survive and thrive; and find out about food chains. I am hoping the weather will be kind to us, so that we have the opportunity to get outside and discover the animal habitats our school environment has to offer! In addition, we plan to visit a local farm in January as part of the learning in this topic, so please look out for further information about this later in the term.

Following a detailed history topic last term, we will now cover a **geography** unit on 'Continents and Oceans of the World'. The children will use maps, atlases and globes to find out where places are in the world, and we will look in detail at some aspects of each of the seven continents.

Our **music** this term will be based around singing, as we work towards our nativity performance in December. The children will work together to learn new songs which they can sing and perform to an audience.

In **RE**, we will complete the second half of our unit on Islam, exploring the question 'Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?' The children will find out about how prayer and worship takes place in a mosque and learn about Muslims' holy book, the Qur'an. They will also find out about traditions and celebrations at some Muslim festivals. All of our RE lessons will give opportunities for the children to ask questions, discuss their ideas and share their points of view.

Our **PSHE** lessons will focus on 'Getting on and falling out', looking closely at friendships, feelings and emotions. This will also tie in with anti-bullying week this term. As always in PSHE there will be many opportunities for discussion and working with others, and as is always the case, there are consistent opportunities for exploring the key ideas in day-to-day school life as well as in specific PSHE lessons.

Our **computing** topic is entitled 'We are Detectives' and relates to sending emails and identifying clues to solve 'mysteries'. We will also work on some early word processing skills. As part of this topic the children will develop further understanding of e-safety and being responsible online.

In **DT** this term we will be experimenting with sewing! The children will go through the process of exploring existing products, designing their own creations, making their designs into finished items and evaluating their work. In this case, it will be to make hand-sewn Christmas tree decorations. We will also produce some artwork early in term two around the theme of autumn.

In **PE**, we will continue to develop our class 'wake and shake' routine in dance lessons. Towards the end of the term, we intend to enter some children into the wake and shake competition between our local schools, and more information will follow about this nearer the time. We will also be doing basketball this term, and some lessons on core stability and flexibility. Our PE lessons will take place on **Tuesday and Friday afternoons**, but please ensure that your child has a named PE kit in school every day, with warmer clothing as the weather gets colder. Please also ensure that any long hair is tied back and earrings are removed for your children's safety.

Home learning

Thank you for your support with completing spellings and times tables homework last term. Our system will continue in the same way, with spellings being sent home on a Thursday, to be practised in the grids given, and tested the following Tuesday. Times tables will also continue in the same way, with our main focus around the 2, 10 and 5 times tables. Please feel free to learn additional times tables with your child if you so wish. We will continue to change reading books on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, however we are really encouraging the children to develop independence and therefore remind them that is their responsibility to put their books in the basket for changing, otherwise they might miss the chance to change their reading book that day.

As spellings remain a whole school focus, I am sending home a copy of the 'common exception words' (words that do not necessarily follow regular spelling rules) that children are expected to know by the end of Year 2. There are a vast amount of spelling rules and patterns that we are learning at school, but if the children can try to secure these 'tricky' spellings, it will help support the spelling element of their writing,

Important dates for your diary:

Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th November: Parent Consultations

Friday 16th November: Children in need

Friday 7th December: Christmas fayre

Tuesday 11th December: Nativity dress rehearsal (performed to the school only)

Wednesday 12th December: KS1 Nativity for parents/ carers (2pm)

Thursday 13th December: KS1 Nativity for parents/ carers (2pm)

Monday 17th December: Christmas Mix-up day/ Christmas jumper day

Monday 17th December: Christmas lunch

Tuesday 18th December: End of Term 2 for children

Thursday 3rd January: Start of Term 3

I am sure this will be another busy, rewarding and enjoyable term for the children, and I appreciate all of your continued support. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes, Mrs Richardson & Miss Brincat