



## Welcome Back

We hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful Easter holiday with your families and we can't wait to hear about all the exciting things you've been up to. We've got lots of exciting things happening this half term and we're just itching to get on with our learning. Take a read of the newsletter to find out what we'll be getting up to.

## Come and See

In RE, we will begin a new topic called '**Spread the Word**'. We will be learning about the stories of the Resurrection and Pentecost. We'll be working hard to retell the stories in lots of detail and develop our understanding of the events. Throughout our topic, we'll be describing ways that we can 'spread the Word' through our lives and how the gifts of the Holy Spirit can help us to do this.

From Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, our topic is called '**Rules**'. The children will be learning about Jesus' teaching on forgiveness through retelling the story of Peter asking about forgiveness. We will be developing our understanding of, and using, religious vocabulary such as 'sin' and 'examination of conscience' to help us describe the symbols and actions involved in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This topic will continue after the May half term.

Prayer and worship remain an integral part of each day and the children are very welcome to bring in and share any prayers or books on our class prayer table.

## English

During the first week back after the Easter holidays, the children will be assessed and placed into groups for our Read, Write Inc programme. The teaching in each group

will support their early reading, spelling, writing and understanding of grammar.

In our Talk 4 Writing lessons, we will be developing our story writing skills. Our model text is 'Ma Liang and the Magic Paintbrush'. We will use this traditional tale from another culture to write our own wishing tale. In order to do this, we will practise using dramatic fronted adverbials to startle the reader, using adverbs to indicate how something happens, showing (not-telling) how a character is feeling and by using short, snappy sentences to build tension.

Following this, we will be learning how to write a non-chronological report based on our topic work. We will learn how to use headings and subheadings to organise information and we will use this unit to help build our understanding of using paragraphs.

## Mathematics

We continue to use Power Maths for the teaching of Mathematics. We will begin by continuing our learning about '**Properties of Shapes**'. We will learn to recognise and name 2D and 3D shapes, count the sides and vertices on 2D shapes, and count the faces, edges and vertices on 3D shapes. We will also be learning about symmetry and will sort 2D and 3D shapes.

Our following unit is '**Position and Direction**'. In this topic, we will learn to describe movement and turns and make patterns with shapes. We will be developing our mathematical vocabulary using terms such as: clockwise, anticlockwise, forwards, backwards, left, right, middle, turn, half turn, quarter turn, three quarter turn.

Our final unit this half term is '**Time**'. We will be learning to tell the time on an analogue clock to the hour, half hour, quarter hour and even to five-minute intervals. We will build on our understanding so that we can work out

start and end times, calculate durations and compare amounts of time. Any extra practise you can't do at home will be hugely beneficial.

The children all have TT Rockstars logins. These can be found on the passwords page of their reading diaries. Pupils can practise their 2, 5, 10 and 3 times tables in a fun and engaging way. The more practise the children can get, the better. We're aiming for instant recall of multiplication facts. Each week, we present an award for engagement with TT Rockstars or effort in maths.

## Science

This half term, we begin a new science topic all about '**Plants**'. We will be learning about how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants. We will begin by dissecting a bean to observe all of its different parts and how they allow the seed/bean to grow. We will investigate and draw conclusions about what a plant needs to grow well and stay healthy. We will be learning about the life-cycle of a plant and learn to explain this, all the way from germination to seed dispersal. We will be learning what happens to plants if they don't get everything they need and we'll make recommendations to make them healthier. We'll also be learning how different plants are suited to different habitats. Of course, we'll also be growing some of our own plants too! You can support your child to remember more by accessing our knowledge organizer on the school website and asking:

- What do all living things, including plants, need to stay alive?
- What do plants need to grow well and stay healthy?
- What are the parts of a flowering plant?
- What's inside a seed?
- What are the eight stages of a plant's lifecycle?
- Do the words 'germinate' and 'grow' mean the same thing?
- In what different ways can 'seed dispersal' happen?

## Geography

In Geography, we will continue to learn about continents and oceans. We will learn to locate the world's seven continents and five oceans. We will apply this learning by comparing two world continents and oceans. We will learn about the physical features of continents, including how the Earth has a core, mantle and crust, and what each part is. We will learn that land is divided into continents, which are very large areas of land. We will also learn about the human features of continents, which usually have many countries within them. As part of this topic, we will also investigate the world's largest gulfs. You can support your child to remember more by:

- Can you name the seven continents and five oceans?
- What are the closest seas to the United Kingdom?

- What is the part of the Earth's crust that is not submerged by water?
- What is a continent?
- Which is the biggest continent?
- What does 'saline' mean?
- What are oceans that are enclosed called?
- What is a country?
- Which continent is uninhabited?

## Art and Design

We are very excited about the next stage of our learning in Art and Design. We will be revisiting our 'Let's Sculpt' topic from earlier in the year to create our own temporary sculptures inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy. We will continue to reason about the similarities and differences between examples of realistic, figurative and abstract sculptures.

## Design and Technology

Our next topic in Design and Technology is called 'Perfect Pizzas'! We will be designing, making and evaluating our own pizza products, learning about where typical pizza ingredients come from and applying techniques to cut, peel and grate ingredients safely and hygienically. We will also apply our knowledge from science to debate whether pizzas are a healthy meal option that could be eaten every day.

## PE

This half term our PE days will be Mondays and Fridays. On Mondays we will have gymnastics using apparatus and on Fridays we will be developing our knowledge and skills in athletics.

## Computing

Our computing work this half term links to our work this year in music. We will begin by exploring how music can make us think and feel. We will make patterns and use those patterns to make music with both percussion instruments and digital tools. We will also create different rhythms and tunes, using the movement of animals as our inspiration. Finally, we will share our creations and compare the processes of creating music digitally and non-digitally.

## Music

In Music, we will be exploring improvisation together. We will be learning to find and keep a steady beat, play/clap simple rhythmic patterns and respond to different high and low pitches. We have lots of fun together to improvise using one, two, three, four or five notes on G, A, B, C and D. Our social question for this unit is: How does music make us happy?

### Reading at Home

Children are expected to read for at least 10 minutes every day and the more often they read the better! This includes reading to an adult. Children's reading should be recorded in their reading diary/planner. There are lots of other useful resources in here too so please take some time to have a good look through. Children will change their own books during our Phonics lesson on Wednesdays. They are encouraged to read the same book multiple times to develop fluency, expression and comprehension, just like we do in class. Our Read, Write Inc Book-Bag Books contain lots of questions and activities to support reading at home. Of course, children should also be encouraged to read more widely too, reading books they have at home or from the library with an adult or independently.

### Spellings

Spelling continues to be taught as part of our Read, Write Inc phonics lessons. The children practise spelling words with the day's focus and are encouraged to "pinch each sound on their Fred fingers" before writing the word. We are encouraging the children to make better choices as to which sounds are more likely to be seen in certain parts of words. You can support your child by practising the common exception words and red words listed in your child's reading diary/planner, and by revisiting words learnt in previous weeks!

### Year 2 SATs

Over the next half term, the children will sit the End of Key Stage 1 tests (or SATs). We are given the month of May to administer the tests, which we will do in small groups towards the end of the half term. The results of

If you have any quick questions please feel free to speak to us at the end of the school day once all of the children have been dismissed. If, at that point, you feel you require a longer appointment, we can arrange a meeting via the school office (01773822278).

We are really looking forward to an exciting half term of learning together.

**Mr T Ward, Mrs D Parry and the Year Two Team**

these tests inform our teacher assessment of the children and your child's results will be shared with you in their end of year report. The children are very familiar with the format of these tests and, from experience, enjoy showing-off everything they've learnt.

### Water Bottles

Children are asked to ensure they bring a water bottle to school each day, especially now the days are getting a little warmer. They are encouraged to drink water throughout the day to aid concentration. Water bottles should be taken home each night for washing.

### P.E. Kit

The children will have two P.E. lessons each week – taught by external coaches. Please make sure that your child comes to school wearing their 'active uniform'/PE kit on Mondays and Fridays. Outdoor kit should include: plain black tracksuit bottoms, yellow polo shirt, yellow sweatshirt and outdoor trainers.

### Uniform

Please ensure that your child comes to school in the correct uniform. This also included hair accessories, which should be either white, black, brown or yellow. Black shoes should be worn and not boots.

We have a significant number of items in our cloakroom that have been lost/left behind. Unfortunately, we cannot return these to their rightful owners as they are not labelled with children's names. **Please ensure that every item of clothing clearly contains your child's name so that we can return anything that goes missing to them.**

### Reminders

Reminders	
<b>Monday</b>	PE (Come to school in 'active' uniform/PE kit) Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school. Reading books will be changed.
<b>Thursday</b>	Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school.
<b>Friday</b>	PE (Come to school in 'active' uniform/PE kit) Bring reading books and diaries/planners into school.

<b>Dates For Your Diary</b>		
<b>15.04.24</b>	<b>Children return to school.</b>	
<b>16.04.24</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	Children to bring suitable footwear and waterproofs for working outside in our Science lesson today.
<b>18.04.24</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	Children to bring suitable footwear and waterproofs for working outside in our Art lesson today.
<b>25.04.24</b>	<b>15:00-15:30</b>	<b>Year 2 Class Assembly</b> You are warmly invited to join us in the school hall for our class assembly. We'll be sharing some of our learning this half term. It's all about the wonderful world around us!
<b>17.05.24</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Pentecost Party</b> The children are invited to wear party clothes to celebrate Pentecost – the birthday of the Church. There will be a special Celebration of the Word to share our work from the day.
<b>20.05.24</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Sponsored Dance-A-Thon</b> Our Year Six pupils have organised a dance-a-thon afternoon to raise money for new sports equipment. Children should wear their active uniform/PE kit. More information to follow.
<b>27.05.24-31.05.24</b>	<b>Half Term</b>	
<b>03.06.24</b>	<b>Children return to school.</b>	
<b>06.06.24</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Sports Day</b> The first of our provisional dates for Sports Day. The children will be competing in a circuit of events to win the cup for their house! Parents are warmly invited to spectate and cheer loudly!