

# Lower Key Stage 2

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas holiday.

- **Reading**

As before, please hear your child read at least three times a week and comment / sign in the reading records.

- **Phonics/Spellings/Basic skills**

Please check your child's homework books to see which spellings they need to continue practising. When practising spellings, please remember that the children are to choose three different methods to learn their spellings each week.

- **Learn-Its and Maths**

Please remember to practise on Times Tables Rock Stars three times a week. We have recently done a mixed tables test and found that the children are not yet secure with automatic recall and speed. Practising regularly will help improve their results and also support their multiplication and division work as well as preparing the Year 4 children for their statutory times tables test in the Summer term.

- **PE Kits and Uniforms**

Please make sure that a PE kit is at school every day as sometimes the timetable can change. This half term PE will be on Mondays and Tuesdays. We will do a Modified Team Games lesson on Monday with NUFC and yoga on a Tuesday.

## **Topics / Learning Themes**

This half term the children will be learning about the United Kingdom. In this unit, children will take a look at the geography of the UK - from the physical features of mountains, rivers and seas to the man-made administrative regions and counties. They will find out how the UK has changed over time, looking at how London grew and how the population of the UK as a whole has changed throughout the course of history. All children should be able to:

- locate the countries that make up the UK on a map;
- name the capital cities of the countries of the UK;
- label the key cities in the UK on a map;
- name the seas surrounding the UK;
- name some of the UK's main rivers;



- find the names of seas on a map;
- explain what a county is;
- find their county on a map;
- find areas of higher ground on a map of the UK;

They will learn their French vocabulary through a Festivals and Celebrations theme. They will also find out about how the French celebrate festivals such as Valentine's Day and Easter.

Science in Year 3 and 4 will be States of Matter. This unit will teach the children about the differences between solids, liquids and gases, classifying objects and identifying their properties. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate the weight of a gas. Furthermore, they will have a chance to find the ideal temperature to melt chocolate. They will explore in-depth how water changes state, exploring melting, freezing, condensing as well as a particular focus on evaporation. Finally, they will learn about the stages of the water cycle. The Year 5 topic will be All Living Things and Their Habitats. This unit will teach your children about the process of reproduction and the life cycles of plants, mammals, insects, amphibians and birds. They will explore reproduction in different plants including different methods of pollination and asexual reproduction. They will take cuttings of plants, creating clones of the parent plant. They will find out about the work of Jane Goodall with the now endangered chimpanzees in Africa. They will explore metamorphosis in insects and amphibians, comparing their life cycles.

ICT will focus on how to e-mail. Children will discuss the different methods we have of communicating. They will learn how to use e-mails safely, including being able to open and respond to e-mails and write and send an e-mail using an address book. They will also learn how to add an attachment to e-mails.

In maths the children will learn about multiplication and division. They will continue to extend their understanding of multiplication as repeated addition of equal groups and that division is the inverse operation. They will understand what happens when we multiply and divide by 1, 10 and 100. They will look at related calculations and formal written methods of calculating multiplication and division problems. They will also investigate multiples and factors and know the difference between them. We will begin our learning of fractions. We will look at equivalent fractions, finding fractions of amounts and will learn how to add and subtract fractions.

In English Mexico 1 will be reading the Fantastic Mr Fox and Mexico 2 will continue their work based on the Firebird and we shall start to read Varjak Paw. They will be basing their fiction and non-fiction writing around this theme. We will ask questions to enhance our understanding of the text, making comparisons within and across different texts. We shall draw inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence. We will make predictions based on details stated and implied. We shall identify key details that support main ideas, and use them to summarise content drawn from more than one paragraph. We shall explain and justify our personal opinions. When writing we will evaluate the effective use of word

choice, grammar and punctuation and make appropriate additions, revisions and corrections.

In Religious Education we shall be learning about Prayer. We will discuss how and why people pray. We will read prayers from our own and other religions and discuss what they mean. We will describe the Christian beliefs revealed in traditional prayer. We will discuss our own experiences of prayer and will write our own prayers.

Our Art topic is called British Art. It will teach the children how to use a range of media for making portraits: how to make 'sensory' boxes, create abstract 'cut ups', tell stories in pictures and write memory postcards to create quality artwork that shows progression in skills. The children will also have the opportunity to explore the work of British artists Thomas Gainsborough, Lucian Freud, Howard Hodgkin, Anish Kapoor, Paula Rego and Sonia Boyce.

Our PSHE unit of work is How to Look After Your Money. The children will explore ways to look after their money, including saving. They will start by looking at keeping money safe and some of the moral dilemmas around losing, finding and keeping money. They will also discuss borrowing and lending and the responsibilities and consequences involved.

Music will be centred around the song Make You Feel My Love by Adele. They will listen to and appraise the song as well as other pop ballads; Make You Feel My Love, So Amazing, Hello, The Way You Look Tonight and Love Me Tender. They will learn and build on their previous knowledge and understanding of music through games, vocal warm ups, singing, playing instruments and performing. They will also be given the opportunity to compose some music.

#### Dates for your diary

Parent consultations - **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February** after school and the morning of **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February**.

Thank you.

Heather Mortimer & Nicola Foy