



## Fortnightly Newsletter



19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

We are now well into the spring term and your children have settled back nicely into all of our routines. The children continue to work really hard – our new daily timetable is very busy and I would imagine that there are some tired children by the end of the week!

A new half term brings new areas of responsibility in our class! Your child may have told you that they now have a new class job for the next few weeks – we change every half term so that everyone can be responsible for a variety of roles across the school year.

I sent a copy of the homework grid for our driver topic (Coastlines) last week. As with all homework, the activities on the grid are optional and children can complete as many as they wish to in their own time. I would appreciate it if you could stick/staple the grid into their homework journal that was given out at the start of the school year.

I have also sent out some optional mental maths activity sheets this week. These follow a similar format to ones we complete in school as part of our arithmetic sessions; therefore, your child should be familiar with them and they certainly help to improve mental recall skills. Again, it is an optional activity to be completed over the remaining weeks of the spring term and I do not need the sheets to be returned to school. I will send further activities for the final term of Year 2.

Our topics are now well underway and the children are really enjoying all of the different areas of learning. In R.E. we have enjoyed listening to and learning about 'The Creation' and our fantastic artwork was on show in last week's Friday newsletter – certainly take care work to be extremely proud of! From this, the children have written prayers and created group dances to music to thank God for the world around us.

In Science, we have looked at seeds, bulbs and a range of winter plants and shrubs. We have also sown cress seeds and have enjoyed observing them each day as they begin to germinate. The children will be keeping a diary to log their observations.

For our work in Geography, we have been looking at a range of maps that use symbols and a key. The children are learning that a key is the information needed to read a map and a symbol is a picture or icon used to show a geographical feature. From this, we will then look at both human and physical features of a coastal town. As part of our Coastline topic, we will be finding out more about lifeboats in the U.K. and we are pleased that a visiting speaker from the RNLI will visit us in early March to talk to the children about their very important work.

Our overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall is getting closer and quite a few children have been asking questions about this. I have started to address some questions/worries/concerns that some children have and I think this has been helpful. We would like every child to take part – there are so many benefits and they will gain huge amounts of independence as a result. If you have concerns of a sensitive nature, please speak to me after school or by email if that is easier – there is nothing we haven't dealt with over the years!! We will be sending out more detailed information including a full kit list later this term.

Moonbeam is continuing to enjoy his/her weekend sleepovers and continues to be thoroughly spoilt! Your child's turn will come in due course if they are still patiently waiting. We are probably just over halfway through the class now and once everyone has had their turn, there will be some remaining weeks left for a few lucky children to take both Moonbeam and cousin Sunbeam home for a weekend!

The children are continuing to enjoy their outdoor P.E. sessions with Josh on Friday mornings – this half term, the focus is multi sports and so far, the children have developed their skills in rugby and tennis. I would strongly recommend that you send long jogging bottoms and a warm top for these sessions if you have not already done so as it can be very cold. Also, children who are wearing tights as part of their uniform, need a spare pair of socks to change into for P.E. sessions – thank you!

#### Maths:

In maths, we have now moved on to a new area of learning and have started our work on money. So far, the children have recognised and counted different amounts of money in pence, pound coins and notes. We are also beginning each maths session with ten minutes of arithmetic to improve fluency and recall skills.

#### English:

The children have now completed their stories (known as a hot write) to bring our unit of work on 'The Papaya That Spoke' to a close. I was really pleased with their efforts. We have now moved onto a new unit of work, starting with a description of a setting before working on the story structure of Little Red Riding Hood for the next few weeks.

#### Reading:

Please aim to read with your child at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner. I am quite happy for children to record their own home reading into their diary under your supervision if this is easier. I will continue to be checking diaries every Friday and will award stickers as a reward for regular reading. If books need changing in between your child's nominated book change day, they will need to let me know and I can organise an extra book.

#### Additional Information:

- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Tuesday sessions and an outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- RNLI visiting speaker – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March (pm)
- Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>/Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March. Further information will be sent out later this term.
- Parents' evenings – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey

