



# ★ Newsletter ★

23rd February 2024

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term – we are now over halfway through our year together and the time is passing by so quickly! We still have lots of exciting events and topics planned for the next weeks and months ahead.

Your children have returned to school in good spirits after a well-earned break. I have enjoyed listening to all of the exciting activities they got up to both at home and away on holiday.

Our visit to Beaumanor Hall is not too far away now and the children are very excited about this. Today, each child year 2 will bring home an EV4 medical form. This is a very important document and needs to be returned to school as soon as possible and by no later than next Friday 1st March. Without this, we are unable to take your child away with us. Thank you!

Whilst our main driver topic for geography remains until Easter, we have some new areas of learning in R.E. science and also design and technology (which replaces art for this half term)

In R.E. over the last weeks, we have enjoyed looking at the story of the 'Creation' in greater depth. Having looked closely at an illustrated 'big frieze' picture of the main parts of the story, the children will now consider the significance of the seventh day of rest and how we can relate the importance of this to our own busy lives. We will then look forward to learning all about the Easter story as we move closer to this celebration.

In Science, we are now discussing different types of materials and the children have made a start by finding as many different objects as possible from around the classroom to classify into a number of groups depending on their properties.

Our work in design and technology is closely linked to the driver topic (Coastlines) and the children have looked at a range of different beach huts as a starting point. From this, they will be given the opportunity to explore different structures before then designing and making (hopefully!) their own beach hut using wooden dowling and a range of other materials.

In geography we have our visiting speaker from the RNLI to look forward to on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March and in preparation, we have looked at different types of lifeboats and located the many stations that are dotted around the coastline of the UK on a map.

In music, we are continuing to learn new songs and recently the children have enjoyed one that links beautifully to our work on 'The Creation' story. It is called 'God Created Them All' and I am sure your child would be able to sing part of it if you were to ask them!

#### Maths:

Year 1, the children are progressing well into our unit on addition and subtraction. So far, we have looked at different methods of addition including counting on, number lines and using ten frames. We have now moved onto working out doubles and near doubles.

For year 2, we are now well into the swing of our unit of work on the relationship between multiplication and division. The children have completed a variety of tasks and challenges involving their knowledge and application of the two, five and ten times tables and their recall with this is improving greatly. Lots of practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s will only benefit your child moving forward and it is clear that many children have been improving their times table skills at home. 'Hit the button' in the 'Top Marks' free app that I have mentioned before also has a wealth of fun games to improve speed of recall. This week, we have looked at repeated addition and the language of groups of and lots of. The children can now see how these equal groups can be written into a multiplication calculation.

#### English:

Our latest Talk for Writing unit has focused on non-fiction. The children began by writing their own set of instructions for how to build a snowman. From this, we then looked at lots of examples of instructional writing, noting all the many different features that are required such as main and subheadings, bullet points, imperative verbs, sequencing, step by step points and labelled diagrams. We used a set of instructions called 'How to Trap a Dragon' as a starting point and this helped to highlight all of the main features.

#### Additional Information:

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- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Thursday sessions and an outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- RNLI visiting speaker – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March (pm)
- World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February (information to follow)
- 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!

Miss Fisher 😊