



★ Newsletter ★

22nd September 2023

Welcome to our class and your first of many fortnightly newsletters! The newsletters will be on our class page every fortnight. It was lovely to see so many of you at our 'meet and greet' gathering on Wednesday. Hopefully you were able to find this meeting useful. For those of you who were unable to attend, the power point presentation can be found on my class page of the school website. This and future newsletters can also be found there along with other useful information and photographs of your children (once we have all permission slips returned for photos).

I cannot believe how busy we have been! It has been a great start to the term and all your children have settled into new routines beautifully. They should feel exceptionally proud of themselves as they have worked hard to settle in and do the right thing all the time. By now, your child should have their new school diary for this year and their Purple Mash login details. (See below for further information about reading) Please feel free to fill in the pages inside the diary that require information or signatures.

Our main driver topic for the whole term is 'Movers and Shakers' It is history based and focuses on significant people both past and present. Your child will soon own a homework book with a range of activities related to this topic. All homework is optional but we are always happy to share any work completed on a Friday morning when the book can be brought into school. Alongside this, art, geography, science, design and technology, music, IT and P.E. will be taught as half termly units.

Today we have enjoyed learning some ball skills with Josh. This session will be outside every Friday. As the weather may turn colder, the children may need a warm hoody for this lesson and long jogging bottoms or leggings.

I am sure some of you are wondering how a mixed class of year one and two works. At St. Peter's, we use a rolling curriculum for topic and English which means the children are taught two year cycle as a whole class. For maths, the children are taught in their year groups. This works very well as the children are taught the objectives in their year in a small group while the other group are independently practising skills that they have previously learnt.

Maths:

In maths over the last couple of weeks we have spent some time organising routines so that children can be taught in their own year groups! The children have also completed a range of activities involving counting, number tracks and writing numerals as words. We have now started our unit of work on place value, and this will develop over the next few weeks.

English:

We are now enjoying our first 'Talk for Writing' unit text – The Story of pirate Tom. So far, the children have internalised the text, added actions to help with this, created a story map and have written sentences that begin in different ways. They are really enjoying the text and we will continue to develop the unit over the coming weeks.

Reading and Spelling:

Please aim to read with your child at least three times a week and sign it in the diary pages of their planner. Every child should have a reading book for home. This should be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together to check their understanding. I will be starting to check diaries and change reading books every Friday starting today where I will award stickers and take care tokens as a reward for regular reading. I am trying to gauge an appropriate number of weekly books to give your child based on how keen they are to read! If books need changing, your child will need to let me know and I can organise an extra book.

All Year 2 children were given their first list of weekly spellings or phonic related words to learn at home this week. This can be found in the spelling pages of your child's diary. If your child is now through their phonic screening and are on the spelling programme, you will also be provided with a master copy of all lists (and Year 2 key words) for this half term with an explanation of how this will work. These can also be found on my class page of the school website. Spelling lists are sent home weekly and each list will be tested in school on the following Thursday. Children will work on their words every day in school but additional support at home is very beneficial and much appreciated. It normally takes a couple of weeks to fully get into a routine but the children need their diary in school every Thursday so that new lists can be placed onto the spelling pages. This keeps them all in one place throughout the year.

- P.E. – Children will require an indoor kit for Wednesday sessions and an outdoor kit for Friday mornings.
- Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information and updates.

That's it for now! I hope you have a relaxing weekend!

Miss Fisher