



Fortnightly Newsletter



23rd February 2024

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term – we are now over halfway through Year 2 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 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 4th 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:

In maths, 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 through the completion of the 'Big Maths Beat That' sheets that were sent home earlier this term. '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 different ways of writing number sentences to show arrays e.g. 3 rows of 2 can be written as 3×2 , 2×3 and $2+2+2$ or $3+3$ as repeated addition – the outcome is the same. We are also enjoying a variety of daily challenges in our arithmetic sessions – usually against a timer!

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, 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.

Spelling and Reading:

I have been pleased with how well the children have continued to learn their weekly spelling lists – thank for your support at home with this. It is also very important that they revisit past lists of words (which we do at school) to retain spelling rules and patterns that can then be applied to their everyday writing.

In reading sessions, we are continuing to work on a range of comprehension skills, expression and fluency several times a week.

Home 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.

Class Page:

Please keep checking our class page on the main school website. Here, you can find the fortnightly newsletters, updated spelling lists for each half term and photos of your children in action from time to time.

Additional Information:

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

- Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall – Wednesday 13th/Thursday 14th March. Further information will be sent out later this term.
- Parents' evenings – Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey