



# ★ Newsletter ★

11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Where have the last six weeks gone?! I can't believe that it is half term already and we are just about half way through the academic year! Thankfully, we still have lots of new topics to cover and some very exciting activities ahead!

The children are very excited about our forthcoming residential stay at Beaumanor Hall in Leicestershire. You should have received useful information about this by email last week. From experience, this is perfect for Year 2 aged children as it is only one night and both days are packed with exciting activities and delicious food in a safe, stimulating environment. If you have any concerns of a sensitive nature, please do not hesitate to contact me or write this information on the EV4 medical form that your child brought home on Wednesday. Thank you to those of you who have already returned this form – it is really important that we have this information to enable us to take your child away overnight. Common concerns include night time bed wetting and sleep walking – we can be very discreet and your child will not be the only one! Please note that your child **does not** need to bring a packed lunch for the first day (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>) All meals are included in the cost of the visit.

Over the last couple of weeks, the children have completed a variety of topic based activities including mapwork and reading a key, physical and human features of the coast and finding out further information about the significance of Captain James Cook and his statue in Whitby. We have also discussed the differences between all-weather and in-shore life boat stations and located these along the coastline of the United Kingdom.

In R.E. the children have continued to think about facts, opinions and beliefs and enjoyed sorting various statements into their correct category. From this, they wrote five sentences that were their own beliefs and talked about why these could not be facts. We have also linked these thoughts to the story of Noah's Ark as it was God's belief that Noah was a good, trustworthy person.

All Year 2 children will be completing their end of Key Stage SATs during the summer term. The assessments will take place during the month of May. In preparation for this, we will be setting time aside in maths and daily spelling/reading sessions to work through past papers so that the children can familiarise themselves with the format. We will begin this preparation after half term.

## Maths

I was really pleased with the outcome of our recent assessment of the children's understanding of money. This is a unit of work that will be re-visited as part of our SATs preparation mentioned above. We have now moved on to multiplication and division and the children are really enjoying this. We have worked on repeated addition and how this can be written as a multiplication sentence e.g.  $3+3+3+3=12$  can be written as  $4 \times 3=12$ . We have also looked at the relationship between multiplication and division. The children may also be able to explain to you what is meant by the term commutative (hopefully!) Work on this will continue for a few sessions more before a further assessment. It would be really helpful if you could practice the 2, 5 and 10 times tables with your child if you have a few spare minutes – we are working on these at school and the children are recalling facts at greater speed! We will begin a new unit of work on shape and geometry shortly.

## English:

The children have worked extremely hard on non-fiction writing over the last couple of weeks. We began by researching 'The Blue Whale' and everyone produced a piece of writing about this as a 'cold write'. From this, we looked more closely at the features of non-chronological pieces of writing and discussed new vocabulary, main headings, sub headings, a conclusion and how to draw a labelled diagram to support our information. In addition to all of this, the children were encouraged to use varied sentence openers that are appropriate for factual writing (for example, additionally, interestingly, surprisingly). The children were then asked to write another piece of non-fiction writing about sharks, taking on board all of their new learning – we call this a 'hot write'. I was so pleased with their efforts – they have clearly been listening and should be very proud of themselves!

## Homework:

As always, homework is optional but I am always really pleased to look at completed activities on a Friday when the children bring their homework book into school. The children are very proud of the work they complete and enjoy sharing it with their peers.

Thank you for continuing to support your child with their weekly spelling lists. House points will continue to be awarded to children if they manage to achieve full marks for every three weeks in a row. As mentioned in previous newsletters, we spend half an hour each day working on spelling rules alongside paired/group reading and other related activities. I have attached the spelling lists for next half term. **Please note the changes to test days in weeks 2 and 4.**

It is really important that children have their diaries in school on Fridays so that this process can run smoothly – thank you for your support with this.

I have attached some further maths homework this week to reinforce more of the learning related to multiplication and division. Just as before, the questions become more challenging so I would suggest that your child completes the tasks that they feel most comfortable with. Maths homework can be returned on any day and placed in the homework tray for marking. Please let me know if accessing/printing homework from the email is a problem and I will provide a paper copy in future for you.

### Reading:

Once again, thank you for supporting your child with their home reading and for encouraging them to read at least three times a week. As always, all children with three or more pieces of reading evidence in their diary, will receive a sticker and a house point for their efforts.

### Additional Information:

- P.E. days will continue to be Tuesdays and Fridays (both indoor)
- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Parent Meetings via Teams
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2 overnight residential at Beaumanor Hall.

I hope you all have an enjoyable half term break,

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilbey ☺

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