



## Fortnightly Newsletter



13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas. Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and generosity – the class gifts were absolutely amazing!

I am pleased to report that my lost voice has returned, although it took a few days of the holiday before it was completely restored – I found it so frustrating to not be able to talk to the children in more than a whisper in the last week of term but they looked after me brilliantly! It was so lovely to see your children again last week! They returned to school full of exciting news about their Christmas and New Year celebrations. It sounds like there are some extremely lucky children in our class!!

Our first job upon returning to school was to award our World Cup winner (Argentina) and runner up (France) children with their prizes. As you can see from the photo below, they were very pleased with their prizes!



A new term brings a new topic! Our main topic for the whole of the spring term is called 'Bright Lights, Big City' This project teaches children about the physical and human characteristics of the United Kingdom, including a detailed exploration of the characteristics and features of the capital city, London. After half term, we will then focus on the cause and effects of the great fire of London. Every child should now have a homework book for this term and on the inside cover, there is a grid of topic related activities that they might like to do at home from time to time. Homework is always optional and I do understand that the children lead busy lives out of school but any homework that they do complete can be brought into school on a Friday morning to share with me and the rest of the class.

In science, we will be observing and recording weather patterns and seasonal changes and in art, the children will create weather motifs and explore line, shade and texture through printing – it's a good job we have our art shirts in school!

As well as continuing to learn new words and phrases in Spanish, we will also be learning some new Spanish songs and listening to some different styles of music such as jazz, folklore and blues rhythms as part of our music curriculum.

The children were so pleased to be working with Gordon again in P.E. He was so impressed with everyone, that he decided to give his 'secret agent' award to the whole class in the very first session! There are some photographs of the session under 'Spring term photos' on my class page.

### Beaumanor Hall

Thank you for returning the permission slips for our residential in March. More detailed information including a kit list will be sent out nearer the time.

### Maths:

The children completed a short assessment last week to check understanding of addition and subtraction – an area that we will re-visit later in the year. We have now moved on to money, which builds on previous work covered in Year 1. So far, we have worked on coin values and note recognition as well as counting various amounts of money in both pounds and pence.

### English:

As well as spelling, handwriting and reading comprehensions, the children have written some super recounts of their Christmas holidays in lots of detail! We also had some activities related to last term's text 'Dogger' to complete before beginning our new text for this half term – 'Katie in London' by James Mayhew. This fits in well with our main topic as the story is about an adventure in London and all of its famous landmarks.

### Reading:

Please continue to encourage your child to read at least three times a week and continue to sign it in the diary pages of their planner – I really appreciate your support with this. As always, I am quite happy for children to record their own home reading into their diary under your supervision if this is easier. I am also happy for children to read their own books from home or the library if they wish to but it is important that any reading is still recorded in their diary so that the children are able to earn their gold and platinum reading certificates later in the year – thank you! 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 and Friday sessions (we now have P.E. with Gordon on a Friday)
- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Overnight residential visit to Beaumanor Hall
- Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey