



★ Newsletter ★

29th April 2022

Well here we are in the final term of Year 2! As mentioned in my email last week, it was so lovely to see the children again after what seemed like a really long Easter break. I enjoyed listening to all of the different adventures that the children got up to over the holiday – they were certainly full of exciting news and very keen to share their experiences with me and the rest of our class.

You will most probably be aware that we had a visit from three Ofsted inspectors last week! (What a treat!!) We received the phone call on the Wednesday morning in preparation for their very thorough inspection on the Thursday and Friday. In many ways, it was a relief to finally be inspected as this was a visit that we have known was coming for a very long time. Having said that, it was a very busy, stressful couple of days for all the adults involved. Your children were absolute stars – their fantastic behaviour and good manners shone through and those who were randomly picked to be interviewed, were an absolute credit to themselves and to our school.

We are well into our exciting new topic 'Wriggle and Crawl' now. I sent an attachment last week of the homework grid for this topic and all children were also given a paper copy to place in their homework book last Friday. This is a science and investigation based topic and to launch it, we spent a lovely afternoon in the grounds of our school last week, hunting for different types of mini beast! All Key Stage 1 children were placed into their 'house' groups. Each group moved around the grounds to try four different activities in their quest to find as many creepy crawlies as they could. The activities involved tree shaking, looking under large plant pots, digging in the undergrowth and stamping on the damp ground to encourage worms to the surface (in the hope that the worms thought it was raining!) All collected mini beasts were observed and identified through magnifying glasses before being placed carefully back into their natural habitats. This week, we have looked more closely at some of the mini beasts that were found and the children have produced some very impressive, detailed pencil sketches.

In R.E. we have been learning about Pentecost. As a follow up activity after listening to the story, the children used coloured chalks to create their own interpretation of the significance of the dove through art. They have also enjoyed retelling the story by sequencing the main events.

The time has now come for some lucky children to take both Moonbeam AND Sunbeam home for the weekend! The fairest way for this to happen is for me to use my trusty spinning wheel (the children can tell

you what this is all about) Erin Phelan was the first lucky recipient of the troublesome pair – she did a fantastic job of keeping the bears under control and wrote an extensive account of her weekend with them. Well done Erin! We wonder who will be next. . .

Maths:

Since returning to school after the Easter break, we have been working on fractions as well as working through a range of past SAT papers in both arithmetic and reasoning. As there are now only a few weeks remaining before we administer the SATs, we are increasing the amount of time we spend on revision so that the children are as well prepared as possible. This revision time not only involves working on methods but also prepares the children for the format of the questions as this can often be different to our daily teaching in maths. Once we have completed the tests, we will be able to return to units of learning in preparation for the transition into Year 3.

English:

In English, we have started a unit of work on poetry. So far, we have spent time looking at different poems about the weather and as a starting point, the children were all asked to write a short poem about snow. We then spent time performing our poems out loud to the rest of the class, thinking about how our performance could be improved with the addition of a loud, clear and expressive voice and even some hand actions! Photographs of the children performing their poems can now be viewed on my class page of the school website. This week we have also spent some time looking at further examples of weather poems and have started to highlight their specific features – for example, does the poem rhyme? Is it written in verses? As with maths, the children are also completing a range of past SATs papers in reading to give them the best chance to perform well later in the term.

Homework:

All homework set 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, reading and SATs revision activities. In spelling, house points will continue to be awarded to children if they manage to achieve full marks for every three weeks in a row.

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 revision activities for both reading and maths to be completed at home. In addition to these activities, we have been working on telling the time to the hour, half past, quarter past and quarter to the hour. If you could spend a few minutes asking your child about this and having a little practice, it would really help to reinforce this.

Although this homework is optional, it would be of great benefit to your children if they were to complete the activities and return the sheets to school.

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:

- Year 2 SATs – Week beginning Monday 16th May.
- P.E. days will continue to be Tuesdays (indoor) and Fridays (multi sports activities – outdoor)
- Friday 27th May – Jubilee Celebration Day – fish and chip lunch!

Thank you, as always for your continued support,

Kind regards,

Mrs Gilbey ☺

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