



## Fortnightly Newsletter



28<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Welcome back to the Summer Term and I hope you were able to enjoy some sunshine over the Easter break!

Although the time is flying by, we still have lots of exciting things planned for the many remaining weeks of Year 2. Your children returned to school last Monday full of news and enthusiasm and it was so lovely to hear about all of their Easter holiday adventures.

A new term brings new topics for us to enjoy. Our main driver topic for the term is history based and focuses on school days – both past and present. This topic is similar to one that the children experienced right at the beginning of Year 1 and builds on prior knowledge and learning from the work that was covered at that time.

Our science work this term involves a lot of planting, observing and growing of different plants and flowers, as well as learning and naming their key parts. We have already started to observe the changes to a variety of trees and plants as they alter and grow through the four seasons and on Wednesday, we conducted an experiment to see if the white petals of some chrysanthemums will change colour after adding blue and green food colouring to their water... After half term, the focus will move to animals when we will learn and name the key parts of a huge variety of different living creatures. The children are very excited about this!

In art, our topic is called 'Street View' This project teaches children about artwork depicting streets and buildings and focuses on the work of the American pop artist, James Rizzi. The hope is that we can create a class mural based on Rizzi's work!

Design and Technology will begin after the half term break and this will involve teaching the children about sources of food and the preparatory skills of peeling, tearing, slicing, chopping, mashing and grating. The ultimate aim will be for the children to use this knowledge to design and make a supermarket sandwich according to specific design criteria!

In R.E. we have listened to and discussed the story of the 'Pentecost' as part of our learning on teaching and beliefs.

We enjoyed a 'biscuit picnic' last Friday in Key Stage 1 – the supply of biscuits left over from our Beaumanor adventures (the children were too full up from their tea to eat them for supper) they were consumed enthusiastically with absolutely no crumbs!

#### Homework:

Thank you for continuing to support your child with regular reading and weekly spellings. By now, you will have received the information that outlines the creative homework task that we have set for the children to complete this term. It is art based this time and we think that the children will really enjoy the challenge. As mentioned in the information that was sent, we would like their artwork to be returned to school on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May and we look forward to sharing and celebrating their achievements across Key Stage 1 and also in an assembly before creating a wonderful, colourful display around school.

#### Maths:

We have now come to the end of our unit of work on measuring height and length and the children completed a short assessment to check their understanding. As you will be aware, we have SATs coming up shortly, (weeks beginning 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May) therefore, we are now working through a wide variety of practice questions and past papers in our Maths sessions so that the children are prepared for when they are administered later this half term. I am trying to make this as enjoyable as possible!

#### English:

As well as spelling and handwriting, the focus in daily English sessions is SATs related. As with maths, we are working through a wide range of reading tasks and comprehensions in preparation. In addition to this, the children have written some amazing weather poems in the style of the poet Langston Hughes – the results are very impressive, and most children were able to incorporate expanded noun phrases and metaphors into their work!

We are looking forward to getting back to normal after half term in our Maths and English sessions!

#### 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 an outdoor kit for Friday sessions – we now have P.E. with Nick again on a Friday. (Weather permitting)
- As the weather can be very unpredictable at this time of year, I would advise warm outdoor P.E. kit for the next few weeks for our Friday sessions.
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May – King's Coronation celebration in school. The children can wear something red, white and/or blue.
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Bank holidays.
- Weeks beginning 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Key Stage 1 SATs.
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – whole school and class photographs.

Please keep checking my class page of the school website for all information, photos and updates.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Gilbey