

**Class 2 Newsletter**

**Term 1 2019**

WELCOME TO YEAR TWO!

This is our first Class 2 newsletter of the year and so we would like to wish all of our children, parents and carers a very warm welcome back after the Summer holidays. We hope you all had a lovely break. This year is going to be a very exciting year, with brand new topics, along with the different learning opportunities and experiences that they will bring. We’re sure the children will tell you all about it!

What we are learning

Our topic this term is ‘Sensational Safari’. We will be learning about the geography of Kenya through focusing on the main human and physical features of the country. We will also learn about the key geographical features of the country including Kenyan wildlife, landscapes and culture. While exploring the similarities and differences between Kenya and the UK, the children will continue to develop their geographical skills through a variety of fun and interactive activities.

The Africa and Safari theme will continue through Literacy, beginning with the story ‘Fatou, Fetch the Water’ by Neil Griffiths, which the children will learn to retell by heart. They will then have a chance to write their own story based on the pattern and setting of the story they have learnt.

We shall also be looking at traditional African poetry and creating our own non-chronological reports about the animals that live in Africa.

In Art we will be having lots of fun looking at the patterns, shapes and colours of Africa in order to create our own patterns, jewellery and scenes.

Our unit in Science is ‘All Living Things’. This will involve investigating and sorting living and non-living objects, while identifying the features of each group.

In RE we shall be asking the question ‘Where do we belong?’ where we will be thinking about our families, the community and those people that are special to us. The children will have the opportunity to think about Jesus’ family and how religious groups have things that are special about them.

Dates for this term

11th September – Class 2 Welcome meeting

17th September – Clubs begin

2nd October - Harvest

15th & 16th October - Parents’ evenings

25th October - End of term 1

4th November – Term 2 begins

Useful Information

**Year 2 Staff**

In addition to Mrs Adamson and Mrs Webb, on Thursday afternoons the children will enjoy being taught by Miss Edgell, along with our regular sports coaches for PE. Miss Edgell knows the children well, through teaching them in EYFS and is looking forward to working with them again. She will be seeing the children out at the end of the day on Thursday afternoons.

**PE**

Our regular PE days will be every Tuesday and Thursday. Please can you make sure that your children have their (named) PE kit in school at all times, as there may be other opportunities for children to do physical activities throughout the week. The PE kit should include a white t-shirt, black shorts and daps or trainers for outdoor activities. The children may also wear a tracksuit for outdoor PE in the colder months.

**Homework**

Please encourage your child to complete their homework each week, as it consolidates the work we have done in school and supports their learning. Homework will usually be sent home on a Thursday, with the expectation that it is completed and returned to school the following Wednesday.

Reading

In Year 2 the children are beginning to develop their reading skills and will probably need to change their books more frequently. We will be starting to encourage them to do this independently at an appropriate time. They may need a reminder from you at the beginning of the day, if they are likely to forget! Please try to encourage your child to read shorter books a few times, so that they retain and understand what they are reading.

Please also remember to sign your child’s reading record and pop it back into their book bags each day, just to let us know that they have read their book.

Listening to children read is generally carried out through Guided Group Reading sessions. However, we will endeavour to make sure that children are listened to individually as often as possible and as appropriate to each child’s needs. It is also still so important that you listen to your child read at home and we encourage you to do this every day, where possible, to give them the regular practise that they need.

Free School Meals

Please remember that ***all*** of our children in Year 2 are still entitled to a free school meal everyday as part of the government scheme. They are still as delicious as ever and well worth a try!

Please note that this has not replaced the free school meal scheme for families who receive particular state benefits and your child may be entitled to extra benefits through this particular scheme. Please ask in the office for more details.

Pencil Cases

We have made the decision this year to say no to children bringing their own pencil cases into school. We have found that they can be a distraction to children’s learning and when the contents get lost or broken they can also be the cause of upset. Please could you therefore encourage your child to keep their pencil case at home, where they can be used for completing their homework, writing stories or letters, or for creating some lovely artwork!

…and finally

The children have made a great start to the year, with all of them showing independence. Thank you to all parents who are saying goodbye to their children in the playground. This is so beneficial in enabling your child to become independent and also reduces the crowding in the cloakroom and classroom! We know that at times there may be a need to pass on a quick message before school, so Mrs Adamson or Mrs Webb will be in the cloakroom each morning, welcoming the children into school and will be able to answer any queries or pass on messages.

As ever, if you have any worries or questions relating to your child and need a little more time, please do not hesitate to catch us after school when you collect your child. It is important for us all that your children are happy at school, so please keep us informed of any concerns, no matter how small. May we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Adamson and Mrs Webb**

Water Bottles and Snacks

It is very important that the children have fresh water each day and whilst we have a water fountain in the cloakroom, it is much more convenient to have a water bottle to hand in the classroom. Please can you ensure your child has one in school, with their name on, which they will need to take home each evening to wash and refill.

Each day the children in Year 2 will continue to have a piece of fruit for their snack, as part of the government’s School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.