



# Class 2 Newsletter

## Term 1 2020

### 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 and the opportunity to enjoy spending time with friends and family. This year is certainly going to be a different year, but with brand new topics, along with the different learning opportunities and experiences that they bring, we hope it will be an exciting one. 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, Children will be considering **Why Is Our World Special?** The focus here is on exploring the ideas of caring for the world. Children will consider implications of the idea of God as the Creator who cares for everyone and of Hindu ideas of respect for mother earth. They will learn how Humanists tell the story of creation. Children will explore some of the mysteries and wonders of the natural world through poetry and symbolism and how people might show they care or don't care for the planet.

### Dates for this term

23<sup>rd</sup> October - End of term 1

2<sup>nd</sup> November - Term 2 begins

Harvest Celebration and Parents' Evenings to be confirmed, should they go ahead, in light of Covid-19 guidelines.

### Useful Information

#### Year 2 Staff

In addition to Mrs Adamson and Mrs Fenton, on Tuesday afternoons the children will enjoy being taught by Mr Pile, one of our regular sports coaches for PE. Mrs Fenton will be seeing the children out at the end of the day on these afternoons.

#### PE

Our regular PE day will be Tuesday. Please note that due to adjustments being made to the timetable to accommodate a recovery curriculum, we have decided to reduce the number of PE sessions each week to one session. Please can you make sure that your children come to school every Tuesday, wearing their PE kit. The PE kit should include a white t-shirt, black shorts and daps or trainers. The children may also wear a tracksuit for PE on colder days.

#### Homework

We will begin to send out homework as the children settle into the term. 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 Friday, with the expectation that it is completed and returned to school the following Thursday.

## Reading

This year we are introducing new reading books for the children. These will be based on the children's developing phonics knowledge, allowing them to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to enable them to decode unfamiliar words. Over the next week we will be assessing the children's phonics knowledge in order to provide them with the correct level book, which we will then send home. It is 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. 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.

We will listen to each child read at least once each week. This will also be the time that we change their phonics book. Please don't be alarmed if your child keeps bringing the same book home over the week. Children need to be confident in reading a book, before we will change it, in order to secure their understanding of the words and content they have read. The children will also have a 'Reading for Pleasure' book, which you may share with them.

We are also introducing daily Whole Class Reading this year for all children in Key Stage One. During this time we will be focusing on the many different skills needed to enable children to become good readers, from understanding how to decode unfamiliar words to showing comprehension of a text.

## Water Bottles and Snacks

It is very important that the children have fresh water each day. Please can you ensure your child has a water bottle 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.

## 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.

**If you would like your child to have a school dinner, please phone or email the school office, so that we may place an order for your child with our dinner providers.**

## Pencil Cases

Due to Covid-19 we have made the decision that children should not be bringing their own pencil cases into school. We will be providing children with their own set of resources to keep in school/ 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 embracing the new changes that have been made in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. They have settled in well to a new routine and we are very proud of them all.

As ever, if you have any worries or questions relating to your child please do not hesitate to contact us. This is probably best via the school email: [office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswrithlington.co.uk) or by phoning the school office. We will endeavor to respond as soon as we can. It is important for us all that your children are happy at school, so please do 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 Fenton