

**Class 2 Newsletter**

 **Term 1 2021**



 Be the BEST You Can Be

*Whatever you do, do with all your heart. Collossians 3:23*

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.

Our learning in Maths will begin with Place Value, where we will be practising counting forwards and backwards in ones, twos, fives and tens, identifying the value of the tens and ones in a two-digit number and comparing numbers. We will then move onto addition and subtraction, practising adding one and two-digit numbers, using number facts that we already know to help us.

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.

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.

Children will learn how to use code in Computing. To master coding skills, children will have the opportunity to explore program design and put computational thinking into practice. Through internet searches and writing emails we will be learning about online safety, while thinking about what our ‘digital footprint’ is.

‘Being me in my world’ is our first unit in PSHE this year. We will be asking and exploring the question ‘Who am I and how do I fit?’ through thinking about our hopes and fears, rights and responsibilities and rewards and consequences. We will also create our own learning charter.

In PE pupils will be focusing on ball skills. The children will develop their fundamental ball skills such as throwing and catching, rolling, hitting a target, dribbling with both hands and feet and kicking a ball.

Children’s learning in Music will be based around the song ‘Hands, Feet, Heart’, a song that celebrates South African Music. Through games, singing and playing instruments they will explore different aspects of music.

…and finally

The children have made a great start to the year. 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, either via Class Dojo or we are available in person at the end of the day. We will endeavor to respond to Dojo messages 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

The Year 2 Team

Reading and Homework

By now your child will have brought home their new reading book. As in Year 1, reading books are 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. 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. All reading books will be changed on a Friday, once the reading record has been signed and your child is confident reading the book.

Please don’t be alarmed if your child keeps bringing the same book home. 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.

In Year 2 we listen to the children read through Whole Class Reading and Guided Reading. 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.

**Homework**

We will begin to send out homework as the children settle into the term. This will focus on Phonics and Spelling, along with the Maths KIRF for 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.

Water bottles & snacks

It is very important that the children have fresh water each day. We no longer have a water fountain so please can you ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school every day. They will need to take it 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. All children will be encouraged to choose a piece of fruit as part of a healthy diet.

Useful Information

**Year 2 Staff**

The Year 2 staff this year are:

Mrs Adamson – Class teacher

Mrs Fenton – HLTA

Mrs Langley – TA

Mr Pile – Sports Coach

Mrs Fenton will also be teaching the children on Tuesday afternoons along with 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 the correct PE uniform. This should include a burgundy t-shirt, black shorts or leggings and daps or trainers. The children may also wear a school PE hoodie. All items can be purchased from Goodies.

Dates for this term

14th September – School Photos

13th October – Harvest Celebration

13th – 14th October – Parents Evening

22nd October – End of Term