



5<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

### **Year 2 topic introduction – People from the Past**

Dear Parents,

Over the next 6 weeks (starting after CNY), children in Year 2 will be following a unit of work on a theme that focuses on significant people from the past.

This unit of work is part of the International Primary Curriculum. This new curriculum sets out very clearly what children will learn – the learning goals – in three different areas:

The subjects of the curriculum - the learning goals for each of these subjects are at least as challenging as anything taught in the curriculum in your child's own country. In many cases, the learning goals are more challenging.

Personal development – the characteristics which will help children become more responsible, independent learners.

International understanding – which will help children develop both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

Each unit of work is based around specific targets derived from the learning goals for one or more of the subjects.

During this unit we will be focusing on History, Music, Art and International.

In History, we'll be:

- Exploring the decisions that rulers had to make in the past
- Using a living graph to explore how a famous person might have been feeling
- Finding out about a famous explorer using maps and role play
- Comparing an explorer from the past with a modern-day explorer
- Finding out about a famous scientist



- Finding out about important inventors and their inventions
- Comparing what life was like at different times in the past

In Music, we'll be:

- Exploring music by a famous composer
- Creating our own music to tell the story of our famous composer

In Art, we'll be:

- Exploring portraits of famous people from the past
- Creating a portrait of a friend
- Exploring the work of famous artists
- Painting a scene in the style of a famous artist

In International, we'll be:

- Exploring the idea of 'fairness'
- Finding out why some people in the past wanted to make change

All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you.

If your child has some work to research, please help them, but without actually doing the work. If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest is most important.

By the end of the unit, we hope your child has achieved all of the learning targets. We hope they have



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had an enjoyable time in the classroom. And we hope you have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm. If you have any comments about the work your child has done, please get in touch.

Thank you

The Year 2 Team