



Year 2 Curriculum Newsletter

November 2014

Dear Parents,

Below you will find some specific information about what the Year 2 curriculum will cover during the coming half term. We thank you for your continued support and hope to build closer ties between home and school as the term progresses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please send a labeled hat and a water bottle to school with your child every day. Children may also bring in a healthy snack for playtime.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

ENGLISH

We will be finishing our work on traditional tales and beginning a non-fiction topic on instructional writing. We will look at how instructions are written, special language used and how to use text and diagrams to make instructions clearer for the reader. Following this will be a unit of work on poetry including shape poems, haiku and acrostics.

MATHS

In maths this half term we will cover, 2-D and 3-D shape, Carroll and Venn diagrams, symmetry, turns and position. We will measure length, weight and volume and study how the calendar is organised. We will look at telling the time up to 5 minute intervals and tackle word problems including time and money.

THEME

Our theme of castles has a history focus which will be supported by other curriculum areas, most notably a science topic -- materials.

History: Castles -- we will examine why people built castles, who lived in them and what jobs did they do, the life of a Knight, weapons, heraldry and roles in society. We will look at life in a castle including banqueting and medieval dancing. Part of this topic will include work on sieges and how castles were attacked and defended.

Science: We will look at materials and their suitability for various purposes and comparing the characteristics of various materials. Our pupils will learn about plants and seeds



including what plants need to survive and the life cycle of a plant. We will be examining plants at various stages in their life cycle making sketches and recording findings.

Geography: We will use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features. We will devise simple maps and use and construct basic symbols in a key. Children will be able to discuss the differences between human and physical features on a landscape and discuss how land is used and organised by people.

Design and Technology: As part of the castles topic we will design, build and test battering rams. This will also link into our recent work on materials in science.

MANDARIN

Pathway 1 pupils will learn more basic greetings and terms. They will start to learn about Chinese pinyin, and try to write words in correct stroke order. E.g. “您好! 对不起! 谢谢!”

Pathway 2 pupils will be able to reply to some basic greetings. E.g. Hi, How are you, Good morning, Good afternoon, Good evening, Good night, Sorry and Thank you. They will also be able to answer some basic questions in Mandarin. E.g. What is your name? What is your last name? How old are you? How many family members do you have? Who are they?

Pathway 3 pupils will be able to reply to all greetings. An increasing emphasis will be placed on answering all the questions on paper and focus on reading and writing comprehension. *Mandarin Team*

MUSIC

This term, Year 2 will focus on learning ‘action songs’, combining music and movement to develop co-ordination skills and recognition of the beat when listening to music. Students will also listen to a variety of music and move to develop confidence of expression. *Miss. Rowan*

ART

Pupils will continue to explore their theme “Castles” during their Art lesson and will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of media to create different textures, suitable for castle bricks. Pupils will then work together to design and create a large Year 2 Castle. *Mrs.Pate*



PE

Pupils will be introduced to a unit of ball familiarisation that covers the fundamental sporting movements such as throwing, catching, passing and kicking through playful activities. This will lay the foundations that underline more complex skills covered in KS2. *PE Team*

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the email addresses listed below if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

The Year 2 Team

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