



Year 2 Curriculum Newsletter

October 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! It's lovely to see so many refreshed faces after a short but relaxing break. We have yet another exciting half term planned, jam-packed with opportunities to learn and develop as the children progress in Year 2. We hope you are enjoying our regular year group blog on the Firefly portal. If you have not yet had a chance to check it out, please do.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

THEME

'Dr Seuss'

This half term we are embarking on an incredible journey through the fantastical world of Dr. Seuss! We will be transported to weird and wonderful lands, meeting characters galore and rhyming our hearts out along the way! We will be using this umbrella theme as a vehicle to deliver our theme learning across the curriculum.

In Geography we will be learning about the features of local areas that will assist us when designing our own Dr. Seuss town. This theme will allow us to explore different skills from Design and Technology and Art throughout the half term.

PSHE

We will be using the text 'The Lorax' to highlight issues with the environment such as deforestation and pollution. This is a great way to link in to discussions about recycling and reducing waste as well as the topic of conservation. We will also be linking into 'The Cat and the Hat' to teach us about rules and our responsibilities.

ENGLISH

We kicked this term off with a bang! The children were treated to a performance by the Year 2 teachers of 'The Cat in the Hat' to help bring the story and characters alive. We will be carrying out an author study of Dr. Seuss and focusing on a couple of his famous texts over the next half term. As part of this learning, we will be sequencing parts of the stories to help learn and retain them. I wonder how many surprise visitors there will be to Year 2 this term!



MATHS

Following our successful World Maths Day at the end of last half term, we were impressed to see the number of different ways the children were applying their mathematical skills outside of the classroom. To keep up momentum, we would ask that the children continue to use their skills, particularly focusing on number bonds and times tables. Our learning this half term will cover topics such as measuring and data handling, which we will link to Dr. Seuss where possible.

MANDARIN

Beginner pupils will be able to use context to understand basic spoken Chinese. They will be able to recognise simple characters, including greeting vocabulary, numbers, and family members.

Lower Intermediate pupils are going to expand their vocabulary in the topics of introducing family members, favourites, clothes and colours. They will also gain more knowledge of Pinyin, which help them improve pronunciation.

Advanced pupils will be exploring how to understand, appreciate and value Chinese Spring Festival through interesting activities. They will be learning topics on: household chores, shopping, Chinese riddles and the Seasons. Through role-play activities they will extend their experience of everyday expressions used in conversational Chinese. They will also learn some new terms used in writing in these areas.

MUSIC

During the second half of term one, Year 2 students will continue to explore the 'dimensions of music' through focus on learning songs from 'Seussical the Musical'. They will play the recorder again, building on the skills gained last year and will also listen to a variety of music in order to develop confidence of expression. We will also continue to learn keyboard skills and explore music theory through this as a medium. They will learn a repertoire of well known children's songs, linked to school themes.

DRAMA

In Drama, pupils will be further exploring the work of Dr Seuss through a range of mediums including *Seussical! The Musical* along with animated interpretations of *The Cat in the Hat* and *Horton Hears a Who*. Pupils will develop their own drama through improvisation and role play.



ART

Year 2 pupils will create their own fantasy bird inspired by Dr Seuss characters. Pupils will be encouraged to use their imagination to develop interesting shapes to create a unique and unusual bird design. Designs will be decorated using colour and pattern. Pupils will be supported in their development of understanding and using the colour wheel.

PE

Gross motor skills will be refined and individual work will focus on close control in rugby, football, netball and basketball. Co-operative games will be developed to practice and progress sending and receiving skills. Simple tactics for attacking and defending will be introduced and evasion techniques will be covered.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or questions. We look forward to an enjoyable and hard working half term.

Yours sincerely,

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