

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Year 2 Newsletter – Spring Term 2024

12th January, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We do hope that you all had a wonderful festive break. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the very kind Christmas messages, cards and presents that we received. It was very thoughtful and generous and we are very grateful. Thank you!

Last term was a very long term and I think we can all agree that the break was well overdue. We really hope that the children (and you) managed to relax and reflect on a very busy, yet very successful first term in Year 2.

So, onto this term our topic in Geography is “Kampong Ayer”. We will be learning about a different culture while exploring and researching about Kampong Ayer. We will use this information to make comparisons with England and our school. We will be learning about the United Kingdom, its countries and capital cities, the 7 continents of the World and Oceans. In Science we will be moving onto our topic of Living Things and their habitats. To support this topic we have an exciting trip coming up to Whipsnade Zoo where the children will hopefully attend a habitats workshop as well as being able to see the animals at the zoo. In Art, we will be looking at different skills including colour, texture and collage.

In Maths we are continuing to work on a range of calculation strategies using the four operations and will be developing those and problem solving with bigger numbers and increased amounts of steps within a problem. We will also be looking at measures and shape, as well as beginning to look at simple statistics.

In English we will be looking at Traditional Tales through the Ladybird classic book Rapunzel and a modern take on this, Rapunzel by Beth Woollvin. We will then move onto Non-Chronological Reports and will explore them through the book ‘Say Hi to the Hedgehog’ by Jane McGuiness. We will use these stories as our stimuli for writing. We will continue to work on our vocabulary choices, spellings, grammar and punctuation, with a particular focus on extending our ideas using tools such as conjunctions and adverbs. We will also be looking at present tense. In reading we will hear your child read and we will continue to focus on comprehension; both verbal and written. Our aim is to instil a love of reading in the children.

Please continue to support and encourage your child at home with their learning. **The expectation is that the children in Year 2 will enjoy reading each day at home for approximately 10 minutes and please record this in their reading record.** Talk to your child about what they are reading. Perhaps there is a tricky word that they are unsure of its meaning – discuss it and even jot it down in their diary so that they can share with us the new word that they have learnt. It is always good to ask questions about what the children are reading to ensure that they understand and can talk to you about what they are reading. For Maths, please refer to the Instant Recall facts that you were given in September. You can also find these on the website. You can use Times Table Rockstars to practise fluency of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

I cannot emphasise enough how the support you offer at home with the children’s reading and other learning has such an enormous impact on the progress that we can achieve in school. Thank you for continuing to support us in helping your child to achieve their full potential.



A very well done to all of those children that have earned lots of certificates already and who are very close to the next, keep it up! We will continue to check your child's reading record and award certificates for reading at home. Just a reminder that the number of times read is for separate occasions and not repeating the same book in one reading session. **Please can you make sure that the books are in bags every day as we get them out daily either to read or to change them.** Thank you for your support in this.

Home learning will once again be a half termly grid of options to be celebrated at the end of the term and spellings which are set on Friday and tested the following Friday as a dictation. The only other compulsory homework is daily reading.

We also do Maths Wizards on a Thursday afternoon. These are quick fire, mental arithmetic tests that last 10 minutes. The children really enjoy these and are becoming very quick at completing them. It is really improving their quick recall during their maths activities and is having a big impact on their confidence overall. The difficulty level of these does increase rather rapidly and your child will be able to tell you what times tables they are on so any practise they can do at home will help them greatly. To be successful the children will need to be confident with their 2, 5 and 10 times tables and also be able to recall the associated division facts.

We will continue with the Daily Mile. For the first half of the Spring Term, PE will be on Tuesday (inside) and Thursday (Forest School). On every Tuesday, please ensure your child is wearing the following:

- Blue t-shirt (with the Westfield logo)
- Black or navy shorts / joggers
- Blue jumper (Westfield hoodie, Westfield school jumper or cardigan)
- Trainers

There should not be any other coloured items being worn. Please also ensure that your child is not wearing any branded items with large logo's on them. Thank you.

We will have Forest School sessions every Thursday for the first half of the Spring term. On Thursdays, children will need to come **IN TO SCHOOL** wearing their Forest school clothes and trainers. Please can they also bring suitable boots inside a NAMED plastic bag so they can change into these at the start of their session. Their Forest school clothes should be trousers and long-sleeved top with a warm hoodie/jumper, coat, scarf, hat and gloves as they will be going out in all weathers.

For the second half of the Spring term, PE will take place on a Monday (outside) and Tuesday (inside).

If you have any questions about the learning or would like to speak to us about your child, please contact the office to arrange an appointment, or approach us at the end of the school day. The mornings are not always the best time to speak to us as we like to get in, settled and learning as quickly as possible. We hope you will understand and support us with this. Thank you.

We look forward to another fantastic term of fun, great effort by the children and lots of learning!

Kind Regards,
Mrs Rance, Mrs Wortley-Taylor and Mrs Sharman

Key Dates for your diary:

Open Learning Morning (Parents Welcome) – Friday 2nd February

Feel Good Week – 5th to 9th February

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 6th February

Parents Evening – Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th February

Home Learning Celebration in class – Friday 16th February

Half Term – Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

RockSteady Concert – Friday 15th March

Year 2 W1SPA Cake Sale – Friday 22nd March

Home Learning Celebration in class – Wednesday 27th March

End of Term – Thursday 28th March at 1:30pm