

## YEAR 2 TERM 1 2009/10

Dear Parents

Firstly a big welcome to all of our new families who have joined the year group and welcome back to the children who have 'moved up' from Year One. We hope you all had a great holiday.

### **Equipment needed**

Each day your child needs to bring their reading bag and personal organiser. Specialist lessons take place on the following days and appropriate kit will be needed for P.E. and swimming lessons.

#### **2T**

Saturday	- P.E., Library, Music
Sunday	- French, ICT
Monday-	- P.E.
Tuesday	- Music
Wednesday	- Swimming

#### **2R**

Saturday	- Music, P.E.
Sunday	-
Monday	- Music, P.E.
Tuesday	- Library, French, ICT
Wednesday	- Swimming

#### **2S**

Saturday	- P.E., Music
Sunday	- Swimming
Monday	- ICT, P.E., Music
Tuesday	- French
Wednesday	- Library

## **CURRICULUM**

### **Literacy**

This term we will be focusing on stories with a familiar setting for our narrative work. In our study of non-fiction genres we will be looking at information texts, explanations and instructions. We will also look at patterns within poetry and write our own poems. Through all different genres we will be referring the children to our school focus on 'Big Writing' including VCOP, (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) that they started in Year One. We will be reinforcing and building upon their phonic knowledge using the UK 'Letters and Sounds' framework. We will reinforce and continue the basic skills of handwriting, and simple punctuation.

## **Numeracy**

We will be covering a wide range of concepts covering number, calculations, shape and space, data handling and measures following the new national numeracy framework. We will be asking for your help at home to assist your child in learning their number facts. We will soon send you an individual number target to practise with your child. If you wish to help your child further at home, please refer to the Key Stage One numeracy booklet on the school website [www.britishschoolmuscat.com](http://www.britishschoolmuscat.com).

## **Science**

In the first half of term the children will learn about electricity. We learn about the needs and uses of electricity and how it can be dangerous. We will learn how to make, draw and label a simple circuit.

In the second part of the term we will learn about 'Forces'. We will find out how to use pushes and pulls to make objects speed up, slow down or change direction. We will recognise that pushes and pulls are forces and that they can sometimes change the shape of a material. We will conduct an investigation and make a cross curricular link with numeracy to record and interpret our results.

## **History**

This term we will focus on the skill of asking questions. The children will use their own home as a starting point. We will compare the different types of homes that the children live in using some of the correct vocabulary (detached, flat etc). They will then research what homes were like in the past by asking questions of their parents and grandparents. They will compare the answers with their own homes to find out what is different. We will also learn about homes 100 years ago through video and artefacts. We will create a simple timeline of homes.

## **Geography**

We will be comparing the homes we live in with different homes around the world. We will see how homes are built for different climates and made out of different materials. We will develop our mapping skills by looking at how our environment is changing in Medinat Qaboos. We will learn how to use a key and to follow simple directions. We also hope to visit 'The Wave' to see how houses are planned and built. We will also introduce a geography topic called "Where in the World ...". Each class will have their own toy which will be able to travel the world with them. Every child will have the opportunity to take the toy home for a weekend or a holiday. The toys will travel with their own diary for the children to record where they have been. This topic will continue throughout the year.

## **Art and Design Technology (D.T)**

Many activities will be based around our topic of Homes. Children will be observing patterns in the environment and the different shapes and forms used in different homes. The work will involve using pastel, paint and pencil. Children will also experience using clay as part of their literacy work on 'Duncan's Tree House'.

Our Design Technology work this term will involve the children in designing and making a 'shoebox room'. We will use the visit to 'The Wave' as inspiration for their design.

## **SPECIALIST SUBJECTS**

### **ICT**

This term it is expected that children will understand how to use a computer graphics package to create a picture, selecting the most appropriate tools to match their purposes. They will also use a word processor, with word bank if required, to produce sentences that communicate meaning.

## **Music**

The children will kick off Year Two by learning a variety of new songs and games to encourage singing in the playground during playtimes.

'Feel the Pulse' is the topic that follows and this develops the children's ability to recognise the difference between pulse and rhythm and to perform with a sense of pulse. The children will use songs and activities to develop confidence in singing and playing to a common pulse. They will respond to and explore changes of speed (tempo) and repeat and create simple rhythmic phrases. They will then use these skills to create an accompaniment for a song or chant.

The second unit, 'The Long and the Short of It', develops the children's ability to discriminate between longer and shorter sounds, as well as the importance of silence. They will use this knowledge to create interesting sequences of sound.

## **French**

The children begin French for the very first time in Year Two! They have one 30-minute lesson per week in which they are introduced to French through songs, games, stories and activities. This term they will cover the topics of introductions, giving their name and age, family members, rooms in the house, body parts, days of the week, fruits and counting to ten. The emphasis is on fun and enjoyment!

## **PE**

The children will cover two curriculum areas in PE this term: Games Activities and Gymnastic Activities. In Games Activities, the children will learn the ball skills required to play the game of 'Bench Ball,' football skills and basic hockey skills. They will learn to work on their own, with a partner and in small groups. (2 'v' 2, 3 'v' 3 etc.) In Gymnastic Activities, the children will learn to balance on different body parts with and without apparatus and to roll and turn in different ways.

## **S.E.A.L. (Social, Emotional, Aspects of Learning)**

This term in CPSHE the children explore two main themes entitled 'New beginnings' and 'Getting on and falling out.' The first theme offers children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair learning community for all. Throughout the theme, children explore feelings of happiness and excitement, sadness, anxiety and fearfulness, and learn shared models for calming down and problem solving.

In the second half of the term we will be extending the work on 'New beginnings' and focusing on developing the social skills of friendship, working well together in a group, managing anger and resolving conflict.

Throughout the term we celebrate the children's achievements both in and out of school through our CLASSY boards. Any exams grades, certificates or medals that your children receive for efforts outside of school are a great addition, so please feel free to send them in.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Please use the personal organiser for messages or to make an appointment to see your child's teacher. Please feel free to meet with your child's teacher at any time, or have a quick chat when you collect your child in the playground after school. There will be a more formal parent and teacher consultation in November. This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, but please do not wait until then if you have any questions or concerns.

## **HOMEWORK**

As in Year One, the homework in Year Two consists largely of reading and spelling. Please try and read with your child on a daily basis and talk with them about their reading book. As the children make progress with their reading, it is very important that they become familiar with talking about characters and their motives and making predictions about the story, rather than just 'decoding' the words. It is also vital that the children learn to read with expression, most easily taught by an adult 'modelling' how to read by example. It is also preferable to spend a few minutes each day practising spellings, rather than trying to learn them on Tuesday for the test on Wednesday. We will start to set spellings after the Eid break.

We would also like you to help your child practise their numeracy passport facts at home. We will send home a 'number facts' target for you to practise with your child. When your child has achieved that target in school we will then set another target for your child to work on.

## **VISITS**

We are hoping to visit 'The Wave' to support our work in our history, geography and design technology lessons.

Many parents come to school to help with a wide range of activities and your help is always appreciated. If you are interested in helping in school, in any way, please let your child's class teacher know.

## **Diary Dates**

15<sup>th</sup> September – Primary Meet and Greet Evening – (Main Hall and the classrooms)  
27<sup>th</sup> September – Grandparents' Day  
1<sup>st</sup> Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2)  
5<sup>h</sup> Dec – Carols by Candlelight

We look forward to working with you this year and are grateful for all your support

Miss Taylor (Year Leader)  
Mr Robins  
Miss Smales