

YEAR 2 TERM 2 2009 / 2010

Dear Parents

This term our topic in Year Two is 'Deserts and Rainforests.' Within our topic we look at Oman and its features – desert, mountains, wadis and beaches and the features of rainforests. It would be very helpful if you could collect together any photographs or postcards of Oman or a rainforest environment for display use.

Equipment needed

Each day your child needs to bring their reading bag and personal organiser. Specialist lessons take place on the following days. Please remember to bring the correct kit on the appropriate days!

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 in Literacy we will focus on traditional stories including fairy tales and fables as well as poems with predictable and patterned language. We will look at both genres and identify the common features and differences. We will describe different story characters and look at story settings and story structure. We will use the structure from poems read in class as a basis for our own poetry writing.

In non-fiction we focus on dictionaries, glossaries, indexes, alphabetically ordered texts and explanations. We will also be looking at different texts that support our topic work and how we can find relevant information in them.

We will develop phonics and spelling patterns through the weekly spellings.

Each week children read within their guided reading groups where they share a story with their teacher. Your child will bring the guided reading book home to share with you. In some weeks we will be doing guided writing instead of reading. Learning assistants and parent helpers also hear the children read on a regular basis. Children also have regular opportunities to develop their writing through Big Writing sessions.

Numeracy

In Numeracy we continue to count, order, estimate and round numbers to 100 and beyond. Place value, and the operations of addition and subtraction continue to be taught. Multiplication and division using 2's, 5's and 10 times table will be covered as well. We will also be using measures e.g. cm, m, kilos, $\frac{1}{2}$ kilos, litres, $\frac{1}{2}$ litres and time – o'clock, $\frac{1}{2}$ past, $\frac{1}{4}$ past, $\frac{1}{4}$ to, using analogue and digital clocks, 2D shape, symmetry, right angles and money including the £ symbol.

We have a wide range of abilities in Year 2. To help us target all children's learning more effectively we will start teaching some numeracy lessons in ability groups across the year group. We will plan and revise the groups on a regular basis, based on the children's needs in particular areas of numeracy.

Science

In science we study animals in their environment and variation. We will look at animals and people in the desert and rainforest environment. The children observe similarities and differences between animals and plants. We shall be studying how animals are adapted to certain environments and will focus particularly on camels. We will be looking at the similarities and differences between people and recording and comparing data.

Geography / History

We shall be studying the climate and features of deserts and rainforests, and finding out where Oman is in relation to the rest of the world. We will be using globes, atlases and the internet. We hope to visit Bait Al Zubair museum to find out more about Omani life in the past.

Art

In art we will be extending our topic work by a variety of media. We will be using pastels to make observational drawing of shells, and using clay to structure the form of a camel. We will be introducing the concept of perspective through desert landscapes.

Design Technology

We will be designing and making an animal mask based on our research in science. The children will need to research the appearance of their chosen animal e.g. fur, feathers, whiskers etc to plan and make a mask of that animal using papier mache and a variety of finishing materials.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

ICT

This term children will use ICT to control devices or software which must be programmed. They will learn that control devices follow instructions, which can contain numerical data. They will also learn that instructions can be sequenced for more complicated tasks and that instructions can be repeated.

Music

This term Year two will be working on two topics. 'Taking Off' is our first topic and this focuses on the exploration of pitch. The children will learn a variety of songs and develop their use of tuned percussion. They will work together to produce a class arrangement.

'Sounds Interesting' is the second topic for this term and focuses on the exploration of sounds. Through experimentation, they will learn that instruments can be played in different ways, producing different sounds.

New musical vocabulary (or 'WOW' words) will be learnt throughout the term.

French

Children in Year Two have been greatly enjoying their weekly French lessons and in Term Two they will build on the topics they have already encountered – introducing themselves, counting to 10, colours, days of the week, parts of the body, family members, fruits and rooms in the house - and will learn about wild and farm animals, traditional stories, clothes and weather. You will have the chance to see what they have been doing in a special French assembly later this term.

Personal, Social and Health Education

The themes for this term's CPSHE and circle time are 'Going for Goals' and 'Good to be me'.

'Going for Goals' focuses on the key aspect of motivation and provides an important opportunity for all children's abilities, qualities and strengths to be valued. As well as setting and achieving goals. Children will be finding out how to begin to take responsibility for their learning and the importance of persistence and of resilience, (bouncing back or maintaining effort through a difficult experience or after a mistake or failure).

The second unit explores feelings in the context of the child as an individual, developing self awareness and helping children realise that it really is 'Good to be me'. The theme focuses on understanding feelings, and why and how they lead us to behave the way we do-particularly the feelings of being excited, proud, surprised, hopeful, disappointed, worried and anxious. Throughout both units, children will be learning through role play, discussion and playing games, using whole school assembly time to support classroom activities.

Throughout the term we celebrate the children's achievements both in and out of school through our CLASSY boards. Any exam 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 and we will share them in a Year Two assembly on Wednesdays.

COMMUNICATION

Please use the personal organiser for messages or to make an appointment to see your child's teacher at any time, or have a quick chat when you collect your child in the playground after school.

HOMEWORK

As last term, the homework in Year Two consists largely of reading, spelling and number facts for our numeracy passport.

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. By now, children will be familiar with the format of the spelling book and should be encouraged to work on their spellings independently. Try and encourage your child to challenge themselves with their spelling sentences. They could use elements of VCOP that they have been doing in class to make their sentences more interesting or maybe they could structure their sentences into a short story or rhyme?

Please practise number facts regularly. The emphasis is on quick recall and children knowing a fact, rather than having to work it out. This can be done in short sessions, for example in the car on the way to school. You will be informed via a note in the organiser when your child has achieved a target and set a new one. We will be testing the children on their personal number target twice a week usually on a Sunday and a Tuesday.

Events this term

Mid-Year Reports sent home – 26th January
Parents Evenings – 31st January and 2nd February
KS1 Enrichment Day – 10th February
KS1 Sports Day – 17th February
KS 1 Swimming Gala – 10th March
Easter Egg Competition – 30th March

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

Miss Taylor (Year Leader)
Mr Robins
Miss Smales