



Class 2 Newsletter

Term 1

Be the BEST You Can Be!

Whatever you do, do with all your heart. Collossians 3:23

WELCOME!

Welcome back to all of our children and families after the summer holidays; we hope you have had a lovely break. Class 2 will be taught by Miss Beere and Mrs Gallimore who will cover on a Monday afternoon. We are very lucky to be supported by both Miss Buchan and Mrs Evans who will job share throughout the week! We are really looking forward to the new term, with lots of exciting and interesting things for the children to do. We hope that our newsletter will give you all the information you need for the term ahead, but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to grab us at the start or end of the day.

What we are learning

Our topic this term is *Sensational Safari* where we will be using are geographical skills to look at the continent of Africa, diving into Kenya and comparing it with England. The children will be using atlases to support their location knowledge and map skills.

In *English*, we will be starting off with African poems. We will be looking at different animal poems and learning about rhyme and similes. Then we will be learning about some tradition stories from African culture, before we write a non-chronological report on an African animal of their choice.

We are going to be continuing to develop our understanding of the number system in *Maths* and for much of this term we will be focussing on Number - Place Value. One of our initial objectives is counting in 10s and developing from 2 digit numbers to 3 digit numbers. We will work a lot on this in class but it would be great if you could practise this at home too.

In *Science* we will be learning about *Living things and their habitats* - The children will be learning about "MRS GREN" to help them learn the life process and identify if something is living, dead or never been alive. Then we will be exploring different habitats; looking at the local micro habitats and what we can find!

We will be trying to answer the question "Why is our world so wonderful?" in RE

Our *Computing* sessions this term will cover many aspects of *ICT* including ways to be safe on the internet before we start our unit on coding.

In *Art* this term we will be learning about African patterns and using our exploration to create our own patterns inspired by those we have studied.

We will be considering Being Me in My World through *PSHE* (Personal, Social, Health Education) where we will consider ourselves as members of Class 2 and how to be a good learner.

In *Music* we will be learning a song called *Hands, feet, heart* which is a song that celebrates South African music We will learn to sing it, move to it, accompany it and maybe even compose our own verses...!

Reading and Times Tables

This year as your children become more proficient in reading they will move on to our other scheme for reading, which is Accelerated reader, if you have older children you may already know. Attached to this newsletter is a specific letter about AR which goes into more detail. I will also be talking you through it at the class meeting next week. If your child is on AR when they finish their book the next day they need to bring back in so they can do a short 5 questions quiz to demonstrate their understanding and move on to the next level. The more your child reads, the more they quiz, the better their reading will get and the higher their level will get.

Until your child is ready to move onto this scheme which focuses on vocabulary, comprehension and understanding, your child will remain on phonics books so they are secure in the word reading foundational skills first. We will read with your child in school as often as possible and change their book as needed. Please ensure you are reading the books a few times at home like in year one for word recognition, speed and fluency. The aim is to change all phonics books weekly on a Wednesday.

Useful Information

PE: This term, PE will be on a **Tuesday and Friday**. At St Mary's, our PE kit should include a burgundy (or white) t-shirt, black shorts/joggers and daps/trainers for outdoor activities - trainers may be more appropriate for outside play. Children are required to come into school already dressed in their kit on their PE day as this has proven successful and effective over the last year. Please can you still make sure all items of clothing are named.

All children with long hair will be required to wear it up in PE for safety. I will have spare hairbands if necessary.

Children will have homework every week which will recap a fundamental skill from English and maths from that week. It is important to complete homework as it helps children consolidate their learning. Homework will be given out on a Friday and should be returned the following Friday. Children will also be given spellings which will teach them a spelling rule beyond their phonetic understanding.

...and finally

It is very important that the children have fresh water each day and as we no longer have use of the water fountain, it is even more important for them to bring their own bottles in. Please can you ensure your child has one in school, with their name on, which they will need to take home each evening to wash and refill. Each day the children will continue to have a piece of fruit for their snack, as part of the government's School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. This includes a variety of fruit and vegetables such as bananas, apples, tangerines, tomatoes, carrots, pears and dried fruit such as raisins and mango.

Thank you to everyone who has already connected with Class Dojo. Class Dojo is a way for us to keep in touch and for us to sometimes share news and stories of what we have been up to in class. I am more than happy to answer queries on there or if you would like to have a phone call we can arrange a time that suits us both through there. Although, I am always available to chat after school.

Thank you.

Miss Beere, Miss Gallimore, Mrs Evans