

# Oak Class Newsletter

Autumn Term: September – December 2024

Welcome back to school and welcome to Year Two! It has been lovely to see all the children back in class they are behaving brilliantly and have settled quickly. We are looking forward to an enjoyable year! Working together with your ongoing support will help to make sure that your children are happy in school and are in the best possible position to make good progress – we have your children’s best interests at the heart of everything we do. This is a very important year, their last before juniors. We will be continually assessing how each child is progressing to ensure we help them as much as we can to enable them to achieve their full potential.

## **English and Maths**

As well as the children’s daily one hour Maths lesson, we will begin each day with a short arithmetic activity during the register. This term we will be focusing on a range of mathematical topics including place value, written methods of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and solving word problems. We will also be focusing on key facts that are essential to unlocking mathematical skills daily during Maths mastery sessions in the afternoon. The children will be using Rekenreks (like an abacus) to support their understanding of number bonds, fact families and the 2,5- and 10-times tables. If you find time at home to review number bonds to 10 (1 + 9, 8 + 2 etc.) or chant the tables this will further support your child in embedding these facts so they become ‘nothing new’ to them and can be applied to ever more difficult mathematical work.

The stimulus for our English work at the start of this term is a beautiful picture book - “The River” by Marc Martin. We will be writing diary entries and letters as well as extended pieces of writing by focusing on key aspects of spelling, grammar and punctuation to improve our writing. Reciprocal Reading sessions will take place once a week and will focus on the children’s understanding of their reading in a cyclical pattern. The children become very used to this way of looking at a text and their confidence in analysing and understanding what they have read really develops. We will aim to change the children’s shared home reading books each week but with a very packed timetable this may not always be possible. Each week they will receive a phonics book to read and will have access to the online library to access even more books – so they will have plenty to read. It is extremely important that you listen to your child read each day, even if only for a few minutes, and talk about their book with them.

## **Science**

Our Science topic this term is all about Living Things - under the sub categories of Habitats and Microhabitats. The children will be learning about things that are alive, used to be alive and never been alive - as well as the key life processes. We will also be investigating a range of habitats including woodlands, rainforests and the ocean. We will also be looking at the food chain. The children will finish the term by planning and carrying out a scientific enquiry.

## **Computing**

The children will be using laptops and iPads regularly to aid their learning in a range of topics. We will also have specific computing lessons once a week with an initial focus on internet safety and using technology to find information.

## **Geography**

We will be learning all about mountains. We will be examining, what is a mountain? How can we stay safe on mountains? Who lives in the mountains? As well as a wide variety of other key enquiries, we will be investigating a UK case study based on the topic, with the chosen location being Keswick, Lake District. We will be also looking at the nature around us. Some examples include what plants and animals live in our local area and even local fieldwork.

## **History**

We will be delving into the events of the Titanic and its links to the city of Liverpool in Autumn term. We will be logging an incident report, looking at the cross section of the Titanic, analysing the class system used on the ship and understanding how some of the safety features led to so many people dying in the disaster. We will also be understanding how the ship was the biggest of its time.

## **PE**

There will be two PE sessions every week for Year 2 children, each **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. This term we will be working on invasion games. In this unit, pupils develop their understanding of the principles of defending and attacking for invasion games. They will use and develop skills such as sending and receiving with both feet and hands, as well as dribbling with both feet and hands. They will learn how to score points in these types of games and learn to play by the rules. Please send in a PE bag (the school ones when they arrive) with the correct kit each Monday. A reminder that they should have the King's Lander branded polo shirt, black shorts as well as pumps and trainers. We will send kits home each Friday. Please make sure that all kit is clearly labelled with your child's name, this will prevent pieces of kit, and uniform, from going missing.

## **Spanish**

The children will be learning some exciting new vocabulary such as modes of transport and nursery rhymes.

## **Art**

The children will be utilising a range of materials and drawing using different styles this term.

## **PSHE**

In PSHE we will be discussing how to stay safe and healthy throughout many aspects of life. Our key focuses will be tying shoelaces and explaining why it is important, as well as eating healthy foods and drink and examining the benefits of brushing our teeth regularly.

## **Music**

The learning this half-term is focused around one song: Hands, Feet, Heart. The material presents an integrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc.), singing and playing instruments are all linked. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, children will listen and appraise different styles of South African music.

## **Homework**

**Reading** - it is hugely important that you or another adult read each day at home with your child. We will change phonics reading books on a weekly basis.

**Spelling** - a weekly spelling sheet from Ready Steady Spell will be sent home to consolidate learning from the classroom. Year 2 children will be receiving chrome books to use both at home and in school.

**Maths homework** - your child will be given challenges to complete on Times Tables Rock Stars or Numbots. We will distribute usernames and passwords for these resources.

As always, please come and see us if you have any questions, or anything you would like to discuss. I am available to you after school every Monday, or you can always make a more suitable appointment at the school office.

Thank you for your continued support and let's look forward to a fantastic year!

Mr. Istead