



Year 2 Newsletter

Autumn 2017

Dear All,

Welcome to the new school year. We hope that you all had a wonderful summer break. Please find in this letter details about our class and the exciting term which lies ahead.

Miss Woodhouse will be teaching the class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Friday. *Mrs Turner* will be teaching on Thursdays. *Miss Wynne* is our Year 2 Teaching Assistant and she will be in the class every day.

Literacy skills

The teaching of reading, spelling and writing, appropriate to the children's ability, takes place regularly within our daily Literacy and language and Read Write Inc. lessons. In addition to this daily Literacy lesson the children will read in a small ability group within the class once a week.

The children should be responsible for changing their own individual reading book and they will also receive either a guided reading book to practise at home each week or details of the 'online reading book' (Bug Club) we would like them to read at home. The task/ pages to read will be detailed in their Reading diary.

Please support your child's individual reading at home and continue to use the Reading Diary as before. It is very important that the diary is filled in as it provides a crucial link between you and us and helps us all to support and further your child's reading. Reading a variety of texts is very beneficial as is reading texts to your child at a higher reading level than they can currently read themselves.

The children will be sent home weekly spellings each Friday. They will be tested on these words on the following Friday.

Maths

Our work in Maths includes lots of oral work and number games to support the children's learning. We shall be counting to 100 and beyond, and working on: place value, addition and subtraction, money and measures, measures and shapes, addition and subtraction of money and doubling and halving. This term we will be focusing on our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Mental maths skills will further be developed through the use of a fun weekly 'Big Maths' challenge which will enhance the speed of recall of number bonds ($2+8=10$ / $12+8=20$ etc.) and the 2, 5 and 10 times table facts.

Science

Our Science activities this term include work on the uses of everyday materials. We will be testing and comparing the properties of everyday materials such as plastic, metal, wood, rubber etc.

ICT

We will cover 2 units of work over the term which will involve learning to programme on screen and we will be exploring how computer games work. ICT will also be used as an integral part of the teaching and learning across the curriculum.

Topic Work

We will start the year with our history topic – The Great Fire of London. This exciting topic will include lots of research and discovery about the event as well as Art and DT work. In a few weeks we will be

making our own fire engines. If you have any empty shoe boxes at home we would be very grateful if you could send these into school.

We will be moving on to our Geography topic 'Our place in the world'. In this topic the children will learn about the continents and seas and oceans of the world. Leading into this we are creating a display about where our family members live around the world. If you have any photos and brief information about relatives living abroad please send these into school.

Home-study

English

Children will be encouraged to continue reading to an adult on a daily basis at home and record their progress in their reading diary.

Once a week, on a designated day, your child will also bring home a 'Guided reading' text or details of a 'Bug Club' book *. These books should be shared with an adult, as they may be more challenging for them than their individual reading book.

A recommended booklist for Year 2 can be found on the school website to support your choice of reading texts at home.

The children will be expected to practise their weekly spellings (Sent home on a Friday and tested the following Friday). Spellings will be stuck in an exercise book- which must be returned to school each Friday. Daily work in class will support the learning of these spellings too

Maths

Each Friday a short, engaging task will be set .This may take the form of a game, practical task, written activity or 'Online' maths activity *(using the 'MyMaths' website)

****N.B: A reminder of your child's 'MyMaths' or 'BugClub' login can be requested from a member of the Year 2 team.***

All of these are activities for you and your child to work on together. These activities will be linked to our class work in order to support the children's understanding.

Some weekly Maths activities will make use of your child's plastic wallet of key maths equipment, (This bag can be kept at home throughout the year). Please see Mrs de la Croix (Year 3 teacher) if you cannot find this bag of equipment.

Each Friday a parent mail will be sent home, detailing the maths learning (learning objectives) covered in class that week and the activity for that particular week.

P.E

We will have P.E on a **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday**. Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly named. We hope to be using the field for games activities and the children will need appropriate trainers to wear. A plastic bag in their PE bag is always useful for muddy trainers. It is beneficial for children to have an old jumper/ hoodie to wear on those chilly days.

We will also continue to be actively involved with the 'daily run' – 2 laps in year 2.

Other information

The children will need a named water bottle. These will come home daily for cleaning and refilling. Please only put water in the bottle.

Birthdays will be celebrated within the class. The children may bring in one special present and a few cards to share with the class. Birthday sweets and treats are lovely for the children to share with their

friends if you wish, but we ask that this happens at home time and are given out as the children leave for home.

There will be the annual Infants Christmas Production at the end of term. This is always a very busy time and we thank you in advance for your help with costumes and props! Details will follow after half term.

The start of the day is a very busy time; if you need to talk to one of the team briefly then please do so. However, if you would like to have a longer discussion then please book in a time to meet with us. At the end of the day we will dismiss the children from the classroom door. Please do not crowd around the door as it can get very congested. Thank you!

If your child's usual responsible adult (known to the class teachers) is unable to collect your child please ensure the adult collecting your child knows the individual password that was set up in Reception, as they will be asked for this before your child can be dismissed by the class teacher.

Finally, we will put notes or messages from us on the classroom windows. Please remember to check these. We will also be using our twitter account, @MapleSchoolYr2, so if you have an account then please check in with us to find out what we've been up to. There's also the school website, <http://www.maple.herts.sch.uk/> and the child led newspaper, <http://www.news.maple.herts.sch.uk> for school news.

We are looking forward to the busy term ahead and hope that this newsletter is helpful. We hope to meet you all at our start of year meeting.

With thanks for your support,

The Year 2 team



Dates for your diary

Parents Consultations: Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th October 2017

Christmas Production: Tuesday 12th December (2pm) – Performance to parents with pre-school children
Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December (6pm) – Performances to parents