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November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well after a restful week of half term. Times are very strange at the moment especially with another lockdown happening. We will try and keep things as normal as we can for children during this half term. Children will be following the rules as the previous half term with lots of handwashing and staying in their bubble. One normal activity we will be doing this half term is the Nativity! This year, it will only be the year 2's taking part and each child will have a role and lines to learn. We will be sending these home shortly. There will be no live performances for the parents due to regulations but it will be filmed and sent out to parents. Maybe you could have a premiere evening of the Nativity at home 😊.

### English

We will be studying English through texts; our focus text will be: 'The Adventures of Eggbox Dragon' by Richard Adams. We will also be looking at a film unit during December which will have a Christmas theme. The book and film unit will allow us to look at and write in many different styles such as instruction writing, letters, diary entries and narratives.

### Phonics:

During this half term, year 2 will be taking the phonics screening test they missed in year 1. This will be a past paper and I am not setting days in which I am going to take the test as I do not want to put pressure on the children. I want them to think of it as a practice paper, which we have previously completed. The children have been doing amazingly with their phonics and I have seen great improvements. If you would like to practice at home, you can use the phonics play and topmarks websites and by just listening to the children read it allows them to practice their phonics. I will send home the results of the phonics screening. If you have any questions about the screening, please do email me.

### Maths

This half term, we will be continuing on with our addition and subtraction before moving onto money and, if time, multiplication and division. We will start off by adding and subtracting 1 digit numbers from 2 digit numbers before adding and subtracting 2 lots of 2 digit numbers. We will be using a numberline before introducing the children to the formal column method.

Please continue to practice the 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's times tables at home as hopefully we will be starting our multiplication topic before Christmas.

### RE

We have two RE topics for this half term, they are:

Baptism/Confirmation – belonging  
Advent/Christmas – Loving

Signs and Symbols (continuing from last half term)  
Preparations

## Science

Our science topic this half term is called 'Materials'. I am very excited to teach this topic to the children as we will be completing lots of experiments during this topic. We will be building on their year 1 knowledge of materials and test out different materials for their suitability for different purposes and looking at scientists that have created new materials such as tarmac.

## History/Geography

This half term, we are having a history focus. We will be looking at Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder plot. During the topic, we will be exploring the reason behind our celebrations for bonfire/fireworks night, the events leading up to the plot and the key people involved in the plot. We will be completing lots of different activities during our lessons to deepen the children's understanding of the Gunpowder plot.

## PE

Our class PE sessions are continuing on Wednesday mornings. The children will need to come to school in their P.E. kits. It is advisable during winter for the children wear a navy-blue tracksuit and hoodie. They should also have a plain white t-shirt, white socks and trainers. Children can also wear thermals to keep them warm.

## Art/DT

This half term, we will be studying art. The topic we will be focusing on is called 'Sculptures'. The children will be given the opportunity to try out different shapes within sculptures and explore the effects of these different shapes and how they create different pieces of art. The children will be using lots of different materials to create their sculptures.

## Book change day:

Our book change day will still be on a **Tuesday** and **Friday**. Please ensure you stick to these days as we will be quarantining books for 72 hours and will not be able to change books on other days. Books will remain at home during the time children have them and then brought in on one of the 2 days to change. If your child is on a longer book and needs more time to finish, they may keep their book longer but once finished, they will only be able to bring it in on one of the changeover days. Children should be reading and practicing their phonics at home daily as much as possible.

## Spelling test day:

Spellings will be sent out on a Friday with homework on google classroom and will focus on the phonics sounds and rules that we have been revising during the week. We will be revisiting some sounds that are trickier as well as introducing new sound rules this half term. Common exception words will also be included in our weekly spellings. We will be continuing to add two year 2 common exemption words to the spelling list each week. The common exception word list will be available on our google classroom site. Please ensure the children are regularly practicing these spellings in sentences at home.

**The test will be conducted on the following Friday.**

## Homework:

Homework will be continued to be set weekly on a Friday and will be due in on a Wednesday. The homework will consist of a piece of English, a piece of maths and weekly spellings. The homework will be posted on google classroom and will not be printed out. The children will hand their work in online and feedback will be given online too. If you are having trouble accessing the homework still, please contact myself or Mr Mooney directly and we can try to resolve this problem.

Take care and Keep Safe

Yours Sincerely

Miss F Buchan and Mrs E Stradling.