

Mrs Kirby and I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts you gave us for Christmas. We are very fortunate to have such kind parents and children at The Ridge.



Year 2 Newsletter

Spring 2020

Family Learning

Thursday 6th February – Save the date!

English

In English this half term we will be writing finding stories. Children will become familiar with the structure of a finding story through our model text (based on the story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers). They will learn the text off by heart using actions and story maps and will then use this structure to write their own finding story. Later in the term, children will have the opportunity to write an information text about a given species of hedgehog (linking to one of our reading spine texts, The Hodgeheg, by Dick King Smith).

We will continue to have daily SPaG lessons where children will learn spelling patterns, word classes, types of sentences and how to use punctuation accurately. Kinetic Letters is also taught daily; children will be revising letter formation and will be working on achieving consistency and fluency in their handwriting.

Children will continue to read with an adult and take part in guided reading activities to support their understanding of what they are reading. They will talk about their likes and dislikes, anything puzzling them, make predictions and make links to other stories.

Topic

In history this term, our attention turns to Antarctica. We will be learning about the infamous race to the South Pole. Through this unit of work, we will look at the lives of significant individuals (R.F. Scott and R. Amundsen) and will be comparing explorers from the early twentieth century to now. We will also continue to develop our use of historical vocabulary and consolidate our understanding of chronology.

In Geography we will be studying a small area in a non-European country; Serrekunda, located in The Gambia. We will be learning about the similarities and differences in its human and physical geography compared to the UK.

In Art, the children will continue to extend their drawing and observation skills. They will also have the opportunity to use clay to develop their sculpting skills.

In D&T, the children will have the opportunity to use tools to construct a product. We will be linking this to our history topic and the children will be designing and making their own marker for the South Pole (like the ones placed to mark the geographical south pole on the 1st January each year).

Mathematics

Our main focus this term will be on multiplication and division – please support children in learning their multiplication facts at home as it helps them so much in school! We will use practical equipment to show children that multiplication is the same as repeated addition and is commutative, meaning it can be done in any order unlike division. Children will be taught that like addition and subtraction, multiplication and division are the inverse of each other. They will continue to practice number facts to 10, 20 and 100 as well as their multiplication facts for the 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s so that they become fluent and are able to manipulate numbers so that they demonstrate an understanding that addition and multiplication can be done in any order but subtraction and division cannot. Children will be expected to use and apply known facts to solve problems.

This term, children will also learn how to interpret and construct simple pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and simple tables. They will ask and answer simple questions by counting the number of objects in each category and sorting the categories by quantity.

Children will complete their number bonds and multiplication tests each Monday. Please continue to encourage your children to complete their home learning using the DoodleMaths app. Hit the Button is also a fantastic, free online game which children can use to learn their multiplication and division facts as well as their number bonds. Little and often is the best form of practice.

P.E.

This term, P.E. will take place on a Thursday. Please ensure your child's PE kit is available in school, that long hair is tied back and, if your child wears earrings, they are taken out prior to the lesson if your child is unable to do this for themselves. Thanks for your support with this.

For the first half term, children will develop their dribbling, kicking and hitting skills and will apply these skills to football-style games. After half term, they will develop their throwing, catching and aiming skills through games like benchball.

Music

The children will learn and sing a variety of songs, related to our Serrekunda topic, and will focus on pulse and rhythm and creating simple patterns using percussion instruments.

R.E.

We shall continue to develop our understanding of different places of worship within the Christian, Islamic and Sikh faith. We shall also think about special food associated with each religion before moving onto the story of Easter and its significance for Christians.

P.S.H.E

We will continue to extend children's understanding of what it means to have a growth mindset and the associated learning behaviours. These are focused on weekly within school.

Linked to our topic work, we will be exploring the impact humans have on our environment e.g. climate change, and explore our responsibilities around protecting our planet and how we can all do our bit.

We will also be focusing on safety; how we can stay safe in the home by exploring things that may be harmful to us, along with fire safety.

Science

During the first half term, we will be finding out what animals need to survive and lead a healthy lifestyle. We will also be looking at the lifecycles of a number of animals, including humans.

After half term, our focus will turn to materials; the different types, what they are used for and their properties.

The children will be encouraged to think like scientists, carry out experiments and record their observations.

Computing

The children will be learning about taking and editing photographs. The children will also be using the internet for research, especially in relation to our topic. We will think about internet safety and will use iPads to support our learning.

Home Learning

Please ensure that as well as listening to children read, they are also being read to by an adult or older sibling so that they have an excellent model as an example.

To support children's understanding of vocabulary, I have also been encouraging them to become interested in unfamiliar words and have provided them with a booklet to jot down meanings of new words they like the sound of (vocabulary magpie books).

Children will be tested on their Year 2 spellings every Friday. These will be stuck in their reading records every Friday (for the following week) so they can practice them at home.

Children are encouraged to log onto DoodleMaths daily to achieve their weekly target of 50 doodle stars.

Thanks for your continued support with all of the above.

Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me:

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