

# Year 2 Newsletter - Spring Term

Mr Conway

Mrs Hunt

Mrs Frost

Miss Willis

## Welcome Back

I hope that Christmas passed well for all or most of you. It can be a fraught time for some people, and many are just glad to be starting a new year with new opportunities and challenges. To help settle the children back to school we will be engaging them in discussions about a range of British Values, such as: Caring, Generosity, Helping Others, Respect for the Law, for Religious Beliefs of all types and for our Environment.

**Our spring Curriculum Map is on the back of this newsletter. We hope to arrange a day trip to Hill End in the second Spring Term.**

## Thinking



We will continue to really challenge the children to think about what they are saying or doing, or what is being said or happening around them. Mine and Your challenge is to turn our children into thinkers and reflectors, and to be, at least, mildly curious about the world around them. I will be using some material from an author called Robert Fisher over the spring and summer terms. He has written a lot of material for children of this age that encourages them to really think hard about, and explore in a variety of verbal or physical ways, what they have just heard or read, and to start to develop their own ideas and opinions about things. Some of his books include the titles "First Poems for Thinking", "First Stories for Thinking" and "Values for Thinking". I can thoroughly recommend these books if you want to develop your child's thinking and reasoning skills at home.

## Parent/Guardian Involvement in your child's learning



Please try to spend as much time as possible helping and encouraging your child to learn at home as well as at school. Ask your child LOTS of questions about their day or what they have just been doing, and about the world around them.

You could do this on the way to school or back, whenever you are in the car, while you are watching the television together, or at any other time of the day when you find yourself with your child. Then give them time to think and put together considered answers. Perhaps you can reward them for really well thought out or detailed answers that go beyond a few simple words. Also try to ask your child their OPINION about something. To have a firm opinion you ought to have thought hard about something. So for a small child their opinions might be quite limited or non-existent. Give them your opinion about something and then ask them what they think about that. It could be about why you think people drop litter, or it could be asking your child what they think of the window display in the toy shop in town. **The more you talk in an engaging way with your child, the better thinkers, listeners and learners they will become.**

**PE:** No swimming this term, so we will be doing gymnastics in the hall on Tuesdays in the first half of spring term and Rugby outside on Wednesdays. So please can you ensure that your child brings outdoor PE shoes and their PE kit with them on Mondays. We will do gymnastics in bare feet.



## HOMEWORK

I will continue to issue one Spelling City Homework assignment per week and expect each child to read and answer the questions from at least one BUGCLUB book per week. These are both independent activities that only require an adult at home to actively encourage their child to do them. I will also send home every two weeks or so a writing or talk for writing homework. **Both these latter types of homework DO require some support from an adult at home.**



**Keep an eye out on our class page on the school website for what activities we get up to in and out of class during the spring. Ask your children questions about them.**

# Year 2 Spring Curriculum Map

**First Half Term: Topic Title: Muck Mess and Mixtures**

**Second Half Term : Topic Title : Wriggle & Crawl**

<p><b><u>Geography</u></b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half term</b>  <i>Draw a detailed plan-view of a Mini Beast’s habitat in our school grounds.</i>  <i>What are the geographical features of different types of habitat (desert, jungle, river, sea, mountains etc....)</i>  <i>Draw a plan view of the school grounds highlighting the position of various habitats and the creatures that live there.</i></p> <p><b><u>History</u></b>          This area of the curriculum will be re-visited in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the summer term when our topic will be about Castles through the ages.</p>	<p><b><u>Science</u></b> <i>on going throughout the year “Working Scientifically” learning and recording in various ways how and why things work and how things can change over time (particularly things in nature) through practical and observational activities We will also be carrying on with some of last term’s work.</i>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term: Use of everyday materials:</b>          Do all balls bounce? Investigating the characteristics of materials when squashed, bent, twisted and stretched. Looking at the difference between gases, liquids and solids and investigating glue, mud and bubbles. Melting and Boiling (<b>Muck Mess and Mixtures</b>).  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term: My Body:</b> How do I stay healthy? Why should I exercise? What is a good diet?          Observing and identifying Mini-Beasts and looking at various life cycles including metamorphosis, reptiles and mammals including humans (<b>Wriggle and Crawl</b>).</p>		<p><b><u>Social/Moral/Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC)</u></b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term</b>  <i>British Values (introduction).</i>  <i>Caring, Cooperation, Courage and Courtesy.</i>  <i>Respect for the law and for religious beliefs.</i>  <i>Greed.</i></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term</b>  <i>British Values (Continued).</i>  <i>Friendship, Generosity, Helping Others. Respect for the Environment.</i>  <i>Jealousy.</i></p>	<p><b><u>English</u></b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term</b>  <b>Grammar:</b>          Word types: Verbs (Imperative) and Adverbs, Proper Nouns, Contractions.          Punctuation: Continue with accurate use of capital letters, full stops and question marks. Commas in lists. Possessive and Omissive Apostrophes.  <b>Spelling:</b> Mastery of Year 2 Tricky word list. Body Parts, Days of the week and months. Introduction of Read Write Inc Spelling Programme.          Use of Suffixes.  <b>Reading:</b> Reading for Thinking (Stories and Poems). <i>Starting to understand inference and deduction (reading between the lines).</i>  <i>Understanding the characteristics of Non Fiction Texts and why we use them.</i></p> <p><b>Writing:</b> Instruction writing for planting and cultivating seeds (carried over from last term). Writing Recipes and Other types of Instructions.          POETRY: Riddles and Kennings and Acrostics linked to Topic (Muck Mess and Mixtures).</p>
<p><b><u>PE</u></b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term:</b> Gymnastics  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term: To be advised.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Art &amp; DT</u></b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term</b> <i>carried over from last term. Sculpture from clay and/or plasticine.</i>  <i>Abstract work created by bouncing painted balls. Look at modern art – Jackson Pollock.</i></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term</b>  <i>Detailed drawing of minibeasts.</i>  <i>Using enlarged pictures to get small detail. Use Growth Mindset concept of repeated attempts to get best possible outcome.</i></p>	<p><b><u>Music</u></b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term</b>  <i>Preparation for Year 2 participation in the Witney Year-2 music festival.</i></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term</b>  <i>Mini Beast Songs and Rhymes</i></p>	<p><b><u>Maths</u></b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term</b>  <i>Extending addition and subtraction to column methods with and without regrouping using dienes blocks to support.</i>  <i>Introduction to Multiplication and Division, through understanding arrays, multiplication as repeated addition and groups of, and division as the inverse of multiplication.</i>  <i>More work on pictograms and Bar Charts and analysis of them through answering and posing word questions.</i></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term</b>  <i>Exploring Fractions and Measuring space, weight, and capacity. Telling the time</i></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term</b>  <b>Grammar:</b>          Word types: Connectives, conjunctions          Punctuation: intro to Speech Marks.  <b>Spelling:</b> Read Write Inc programme.  <b>Reading:</b> Non-Fiction texts based around Nature.  <b>Writing:</b> Presenting scientific experiments. Describing Life Cycles in detail.          Writing an original story about a Mini Beast.          Writing a Fact Sheet about their favourite Mini Beast.</p>
<p><b><u>Religious Education</u></b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Half term Judaism:</b> introduction          Practices and ways of life          Values and commitments</p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Half Term Christianity:</b>          We are learning to re-tell the Easter story and understand what Jesus’s resurrection means for Christians.  <b>Judaism:</b> <i>We are learning all about Passover.</i></p>				