

# Year Two Newsletter

## Spring 2016



Miss Darling, Miss Truscott  
Mrs Bryan, Mrs Singh, Mrs Woollard, Ms Boyer

Children will be learning:

## **English**

This term, our English lessons will be based on our Humanities topic on Africa. The children will be reading traditional stories from Africa such as: The Leopard's Drum and Anansi stories. The children will be developing their speaking and listening skills by retelling stories orally and acting out stories in drama-based activities. The children will also be reading and creating their own information texts about Africa, with a focus on Ghana. The children will also continue to develop their handwriting skills and spelling daily, as well as expanding their use of different punctuation and powerful vocabulary.

## **Maths**

This term, pupils will be learning to recognise the value of coins and identify change from different amounts. We will also look at 2D and 3D shapes and their features. Children will be developing their knowledge of fractions and how to find a fraction of a number, or set of objects. We will also be studying how to read time in various contexts and look at measuring volume. All concepts taught this term will involve word problems and the skills needed in order to solve them.

## **Science**

Our topics this term are: Habitats and Materials. The children will be learning about why different animals and plants need suitable habitats and how animals obtain food from plants and other animals. They will also be identifying and comparing the suitability of a variety of everyday materials. Children will investigate how some materials can be changed using forces (bending, squashing and stretching). The children will also be investigating how heat can change the properties of some materials and explaining which changes are irreversible. Throughout the term, children will be working on planning and conducting simple investigations and will continue to develop their skills in suggesting questions as a basis of enquiry, predicting what might happen and recording evidence in tables and charts.

## Computing

This term in Computing, children will learn to save their work from iPads to Dropbox. They will develop their programming skills using the following apps: A.L.E.X, Kodable and Scratch Junior, so that they can better understand the importance of sequencing and conditions. Pupils will create a Water Cycle animation and an audio book about Africa. They will also create a banana keyboard using Makey Makey.

## Humanities

This term, our Humanities topic will be Africa, with a focus on Ghana. The children will be using computers, ipads, globes and atlases to locate different locations in Africa. They will be using a range of resources to find out about the different landscapes of Africa, life in modern towns and villages and all about African animals. Children will be making comparisons with their own locality and everyday experiences and life in Africa. They will research Ghana to find out what attracts tourists and holiday makers there.

## Art and DT

Our Art and Design Technology work will also be based on our Humanities work children will be drawing African artefacts exploring patterns and colour in African art and producing their own paintings using different painting techniques. In DT, the children will design and make their own model safari vehicle using various materials.

## Religious Education

This term, our RE topics are Belonging and Easter. The children will learn about the importance of belonging and different practices and ceremonies within religious faiths including: Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.. The children will also be learning about the story of Easter and how it is celebrated in the Christian faith.

## **PE days to be confirmed**

Please ensure that your child has a suitable PE kit. The school policy is navy or black shorts and a plain white or blue T-shirt with trainers or plimsoles. Tracksuit bottoms may be worn in cold weather. Children should bring their PE kit in a drawstring bag, on the first day of term and leave it in school until half term. Jewellery should not be worn to school, with the exception of small studs, which should be removed by the child for all PE lessons.

## **Birthdays**

In line with the school's healthy eating policy, please do not send in party bags, sweets etc when it is your child's birthday. You can however, send in a cake for classmates, ready cut, with a napkins or bags.

## **Homework**

Children will be given a weekly spellings list to learn (the test for which, will be on a Monday), as well as their times tables passport and tasks to complete on Reading Eggs and Mathematics. It is also expected, that children will read to an adult every day for around 15-20 minutes.

## **Book Bags**

Children should bring their book bags to school each day with their reading book and reading record. Book bags can be purchased from the office. Children may also bring a bottle of water, but please do not send it to school in the book bag.

## **Uniform**

Children are expected to wear school uniform. This can be purchased from the office. Please ensure that **all** uniform and PE kit is clearly labelled with your child's name. In general, children should not wear jewellery to school but small ear studs are permitted.

If you have any issues or concerns, please feel free to make an appointment to see your child's teacher.