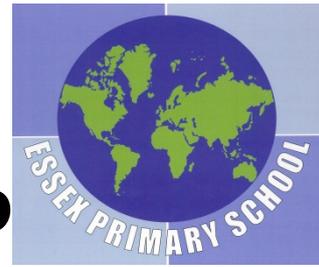


Year 2 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2016



Welcome back to school! We hope you had a fun-filled holiday, are well rested and ready for the term ahead. This half term is packed with wonderful opportunities for our Year 2 children starting with making a healthy meal in D+T, writing instructions for a recipe, performing poetry, and planting seeds in Science.

Homework

Homework in Year 2 is vitally important as it gives the children an opportunity to consolidate what they have learnt in school. This is handed out on Friday each week and includes English and Mathematics and occasionally some topic work. The children are given activities that reflect what has been taught during the week. This is a great opportunity for your child to practise the skills they have learnt and try and apply them independently. It should be returned by the Tuesday of the following week. The work must be completed to the best of their ability and we have high expectations with regards to the presentation of the work. Good communication between home and school is vital for our children's well-being and development. Please feel free to give us some feedback on how your child coped with the level of the challenge.

Reading

At Essex Primary School, we encourage our children to have a passion for reading. In Year 2, we are keen for the children to progress through the Oxford Reading Scheme successfully and become fluent 'Free Readers'. To do this they need to read aloud daily to an adult. Please write a short comment in their reading record book to communicate to us how they are reading at home.

Spellings

Weekly spellings should be practised at home in readiness for the spelling test on a Friday. They can practise writing the words in their blue spelling book. Children must also learn the meanings of the words and be able to use them accurately in sentences.

English

A writing task will be provided every week.

Maths

Activities are given based on the unit of work taught that week. An example is always given, as a reminder to children of how to solve the problem.

Speak Up!

'Talk Homework' will sometimes be included in the homework. At the beginning of each half term a poem will be given to be learned off by heart. These will be performed in an assembly each half term.

PE days

2C - Tuesday and Thursday
2N - Tuesday and Wednesday
2B - Monday and Wednesday
2H - Thursday and Friday



Topics for this term

- **Writing:** We will be learning about stories with familiar settings and poems with different patterns. We will be writing instructions and this will be linked with D&T- learning about 'recipes'. Later in the term we will be writing texts about Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale and this will be linked to the work in History (The lives of significant individuals). We will also be looking at traditional stories (Cinderella) and writing our own versions of them.
- **Reading:** During Guided Reading sessions the children will focus on developing different reading strategies and their comprehension skills. They will be taught to read with expression and to read for meaning.
- **Spellings:** Spellings will be issued on Fridays to be practised at home as part of the weekly homework. The children will use the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check strategy to learn their spellings. Spellings will be assessed through a weekly spelling test on Friday. Children that achieve full marks on the test will receive a certificate in assembly. Children must also learn the meanings of the words and be able to use them accurately in sentences.
- **Speak Up!** We are continuing to promote Standard English in both speaking and writing.
- **Maths:** We will be working on counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s. We will also be working on place value, describing 2D and 3D shapes, and measures (measuring length, temperature and capacity). Please encourage your child to learn their 2, 5 and 10 times tables as early as possible.
- **Science:** The children will learn about plants and how they grow. We will be growing plants in class. Later in the term we will be learning about different animals and their habitats.
- **Geography:** Children will explore maps and focus on the United Kingdom.
- **History:** Our topics are 'The lives of significant individuals' - Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale; and 'Remembrance Day'.
- **Art & Design:** The children will create poppies linked to Remembrance Day through drawing, painting and cutting.
- **Religious Education:** 'What is fasting?' The unit will look at all religious groups that fast and explore the reasons why.
- **PSHCE:** The theme of 'New Beginnings' offers children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals within a community, and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair learning community for all.
- **Computing:** This term our focus is on online safety. Children will be focusing on the potential dangers of the internet and finding ways to stay safe. The children will also be learning basic skills to record sound and pictures, type text in Word documents, copy and paste images and use the Internet to research relevant information on the topics being taught.

Websites to support learning at home: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask the Year 2 Teachers: Mrs Chowdhury (2C), Mr Nott (2N), Ms Bigby (2B) and Ms Hamida (2B).

We are looking forward to working with you and your children this year.

Warm regards,

Mrs Chowdhury

Year 2 Group Leader

