



Dear Parents and Children in Class 2

Welcome back. I hope you have all had a good break.

Hopefully your child will have brought home their termly homework challenge that was given out towards the end of last term. To clarify a recent email, the termly homework challenge is optional as we appreciate that homework can sometimes be a difficult issue with the pressures of a modern family and we keep this firmly in our mind when setting the children their homework. However, please be assured that the homework we set does have a lasting impact on your child's progress. Of particular importance is the daily practice of times tables, spellings and reading. Alongside this is the weekly reading comprehension. Incidentally, please can I ask that either the yellow reading record book or the printed comprehension sheet is signed by an adult to confirm the comprehension homework has been completed; thank you.

Please can I remind you that in Class 2 we do not use the yellow reading record book as a 'communication book' like Class 1 and neither do we look through your child's book bag. If you need to communicate anything to us that does not require face to face contact on the playground, please either send in a written note/letter on a separate piece of paper and instruct your child to hand it to me or alternatively feel free to use the school email address: bursar@maidwell.northants-ecl.gov.uk (for non-urgent messages).

If your child has anything to hand in to the school office that has been placed in their book bag, it is their responsibility to place it into the post box in the classroom first thing in the morning.

Finally, I look forward to seeing everyone at Parents' evening next week.

Thank you

Mr Woods
Class 2 Teacher

Literacy

This term we shall be enjoying an inspirational story called *Mr Big* by Ed Vere. We will work through the stages of learning the story and its language structure. Following on from this, we will use our understanding of the features of a Rags-to-Riches story to elaborate on key scenes in the story and develop our descriptive writing. In particular, we will look at describing the scene around the main character, Mr Big, as he realises the attention he is attracting with his piano playing.



For the remainder of the term we will be looking at the non-fiction text type of *Information*. This will include looking closely at the language structure, the flow of the text and the grammatical conventions such as tense, person and which word classes are used most significantly. We will then use *Mr Big* as a basis for our *Information* writing along with other cross-curricular work.

Spelling

Throughout the year we shall spend time looking at the different spelling rules and conventions and integrate these into our literacy work.

In addition to this, the children will be issued, on a weekly basis, with a set of words to learn at home. These words will be tested on the following Friday (although occasionally our spelling test day might change due to circumstances that week). At other times during the term we will also have additional assessment spelling tests however the words for these tests are not published in advance.

Many of the words included in our spelling tests come from national curriculum statutory list of words for Year 3 & 4.

Each of the weekly lists are also available on *SpellAnywhere*. However, I would urge a note of caution on the use of *SpellAnywhere*. It is of very little value if the children use *SpellAnywhere* without selecting the 'Audio Only' function. Please feel free to ask for more detail on this if your child makes use of *SpellAnywhere* for independent practice.

Punctuation & Grammar

In addition to our Literacy work, where we focus on the text structure of writing, we will also spend time developing our punctuation and grammar skills. This will be through a combination of separate *Word Work* lessons and activities integrated into our main Literacy lessons.

We will continue to spend time securing our knowledge of the four main word classes; Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Adverbs. This is something fundamental to children, particularly in Class 2 and although the concept is straightforward, the children can often find it difficult to identify the word class for a particular word in a sentence. In addition to this, this term we will move onto considering verbs and adverbs in more depth.

Maths

Last term we focused on mental methods for addition and subtraction and a written method for addition. For those children in Year 3 they have been introduced to Expanded Column Addition. This written method is different from the conventional method we, as adults, recognise from our school days. I would urge you to ask your child to demonstrate the method to you rather than showing them a different method at this point. This is because the expanded method also allows the children to learn how addition works and not just what to do. This step lays the groundwork for the children to become more proficient in later years as they can spot mistakes in their calculations, estimate more accurately and apply methods learnt in the following years more easily across new situations.

To support your child with their maths work, it would be fantastic if you could spend time verbally reinforcing their number bonds with them. One efficient way of practising number bonds every day is for your child to add together the digits presented on a passing car number plate and race you to the answer. This practice is essential for ALL children, even those who are already capable of number bonding.

This term we will be moving onto mental multiplication and division methods along with a written multiplication method.

Science

Our topic this term for science is *Light*.

During this topic we will be building on learning from previous years to understand further a number of key scientific aspects: how shadows are created; what a reflection is; how different materials create different shadows and different reflections; scientific recording using standard diagram notation for beams of light and different surfaces.

Geography

This term we will continue with our Geography topic about the 4 A's – Africa, Asia, Antarctica and Australasia. Much of last term was spent developing the children's understanding of the whole world, specifically continents and oceans and then the UK and its counties and cities. We will build on this knowledge by comparing the UK to different countries within the 4A's – focusing on natural geographical features and building on the children's map-reading skills.

Art

We will be having to Art Days dedicated to the creation of masks and props and the backdrop for *The Jungle Book*.

Computing

This term we will continue our Computing topic using the coding environment *Scratch*. The new National Curriculum places a heavy emphasis on children learning how to write code and the Scratch environment (<https://scratch.mit.edu/>) is ideal for this. In addition to this work, we will look at further aspects of Online Safety as we continue to help the children stay safe on the internet.

RE

This term we will continue our work on the topic of *Peace*. Towards the end of last term we looked at the Peace Pagodas in the UK located in London and Milton Keynes. We will begin this term by reflecting on the Peace Pagodas, further exploring their origins, meanings and use. We will then go on to design and make representations of



miniature gardens/statues of peace. We will then explore how it feels to be peaceful, look at how peace is used as part of worship and research the work of a person/group who has endeavoured to work for peace.

Music

This half term class 2 will be revising the concept of pitched notes and the sol-fa notes and hand signs. We will continue to work on rhythm building and combine the pitches with rhythms. As Christmas approaches we will sing a few carols and focus on texture and timbre.

Spanish

¡Hola a todos! (Hello everyone!). I hope you have all had a great half term break.

During the rest of this term, Y3 and Y4 will be learning some animal names and colours. They will learn some Spanish vocabulary from a famous English children's book. The linguistic focus is on gender, definite articles, plurals and adjectives (position & basic agreement). They will also learn about Spanish Celebrations at Christmas and a Spanish carol.

¡Feliz Navidad! (Happy Christmas!)



PE

Our planned PE sessions will be swimming on a Monday afternoon and PE on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their complete PE kit in school, including outdoor footwear (separate from their normal school shoes) for the entire week, as last minute changes can sometimes occur. PE is a statutory, not optional, part of the school curriculum and as such every step possible must be taken to ensure your child can take part.

Please note it is also not acceptable for children to wear items of their school uniform such as polo shirt/shoes as their PE kit.

The focus for our unit of work is **Social Skills**, with a physical focus on *Dynamic Balance to Agility* for the first three lessons and on *Static Balance: Seated* for the remaining three lessons. The class learning goals will be:

- I can cooperate well with others and give helpful feedback. I help organise roles and responsibilities and I can guide a small group through a task
- I show patience and support others, listening well to them about our work. I am happy to show and tell them about my ideas
- I can help praise and encourage others in their learning

PSHE

We will continue with our Growth Mindset themes this term.

