

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 holiday homework challenge that was given out at the end of last term. 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 and reading and alongside this; the weekly reading comprehension.

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

If your child has anything to hand into 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.

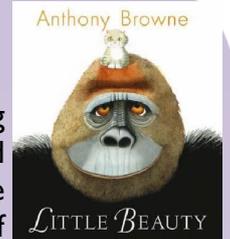
Finally, I look forward to seeing everyone at Parents' evening during the second week of term.

Thank you

Mr Woods
Class 2 Teacher

Literacy

This term we shall be enjoying an Anthony Browne story called *Little Beauty*. With this story 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 main character, the gorilla, and the scene around him as he moves through a number of emotions during the story.



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 *Little Beauty* as a basis for our *Information* writing along with other cross-curricular work.

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 secure our knowledge of the four main word classes: Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives and 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, we will focus on extending our understanding of verbs, their different tenses, the *To Be* and *To Have* verbs and finally using adverbs to support a verb.

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 the 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.

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

For the first few weeks we will complete our topic on *Electricity*. After this, we will move on to a new topic: *Rocks*.



Through this topic we will look at the fascinating world of rocks and soils. We will undertake some experiments on different rocks and understand a little of where they come from and why they are so important to our lives.

Geography

Last term, Class 2 and 3 were supposed to explore the United Kingdom. However, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring maps and finding out how to use atlases properly, looking specifically at using the index to locate a specific place, understanding symbols, being able to give grid references, and understanding compass directions which took the whole of last term but they gained so much from it.

It has meant that this term, the children will use their map-reading skills to help them when exploring the United Kingdom. We will spend time building on our geographical knowledge by naming and locating countries, counties and landmarks within the UK and other key topographical features such as mountains and coasts. We will then focus more closely on other features including some of its major canals, rivers and cities and make a comparison to another country.

Art/DT

This term our Art/DT will focus on our Aladdin production. The children will be involved in the making of all props for the show.

Computing

This term we will continue our Computing topic using the coding environment Scratch. The 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 topic entitled *Sikhism in Britain*. We have already learnt about Sikh values and symbols of Sikhism. We will continue to explore concepts of leadership round Guru Nanak and his successors before exploring the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib – the Sikh Holy Scriptures. We will find out about the Amrit ceremony and compare to Confirmation in Christianity and Bar/Bat Mitzvah in Judaism. We will end by exploring Sikh festivals and their importance to Sikhs.



Music

This half term the class will be working on singing a variety of songs in two or more parts. We will be learning the songs for this year's school performance, focusing on the harmonies in the music. The children will continue to develop their confidence recognising rhythmic patterns.

Spanish

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to tell the parents how welcome I have been made to feel by all the children at Maidwell school. ¡Muchas gracias!

In the last few weeks we have been looking at some totally new topics for the majority of year 3 such as: greetings; answering and asking your name and age; the numbers from 1 to 50; days of the week and months. The topics we will then look at are: farm animals, family members, parts of the body and daily routine. All of this is delivered through games, songs and worksheets to reinforce the learning.

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.**

Gymnastics Unit

In this unit, children focus on gymnastic actions on the floor and on apparatus. They will learn different types of rolls, jumps, shapes, movements and balances performing them safely on the floor and on apparatus. Children will learn specific gymnastic movement names and phrases. By the end of this unit, children will be able to form a sequence of movements using their acquired skills. Children will be expected to plan and perform their sequences individually, with a partner and as part of a group.

PSHE

Our themes of the 5R's and Growth Mindset will continue to be explored through the arrival and hanging of our six Growth Mindset banners and the themes will be part of everything we do in the coming weeks and months. A 'can do' attitude will be particularly valuable as we go into full Aladdin production!

Class 2: September 2016

	9.30	9.45	12.00	1.45		
Monday	Grammar	Spelling	Book Talk/ Comprehension	Literacy	Swimming/RE	
Tuesday	Handwriting/Class Book Reading Time	Assembly	Literacy	Spelling	Science	
Wednesday		Oral/Mental Starter (Grammar)			Spanish	Music
Thursday			Numeracy	Spelling	Computing	PE
Friday	Learning Logs	Mental Maths/Grammar				History/Geography/DT/Art