

Dear Parents and Children in Class 2

Welcome back and a Happy New Year, I hope you have all had a good Christmas holiday and thank you for all the lovely presents and cards that we have received.

Thank you for your support with the holiday homework challenge; hopefully the children have enjoyed reading any new books they have received for Christmas presents.

Please can I ask that your child has a NAMED water bottle in school. Even though the weather does not necessarily demand the need for a water bottle, the children need to drink water every break time and before and after PE lessons.

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, for non-urgent messages, feel free to use the school email address: [bursar@maidwell.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursar@maidwell.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

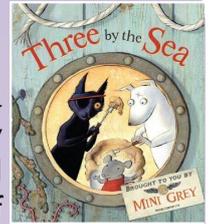
Finally, if your child has anything to hand into the school office that has been placed in their book bag, it is their responsibility to place it into the post-box in the classroom first thing in the morning. This applies to any correspondence for the office.

Thank you

Mr Woods  
Class 2 Teacher

## Literacy

This term we shall be enjoying a story called *Three by the Sea* by Mini Grey. 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 an Overcoming-the-Monster story to elaborate on key scenes in the story and develop our description of the *Setting* – in particular we will look at describing the main setting of the beach during the daytime in calm weather and then at night during a storm!



For the remainder of the term we will be looking at the non-fiction text type of *Persuasion*. 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 *Three by the Sea* as a basis for our *Persuasion* 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.

During this time we will be securing our grammar knowledge by reviewing the results of our recent grammar assessments. In addition to this, this term we will move onto considering the tenses of verbs followed by using prefixes to change the meaning of root words.

## 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.

## Maths

During the first few weeks of this term, we will be focussing on developing our written subtraction methods and strengthening our shape and space knowledge with particular reference to 2D shapes, regular polygons and angles.

For the remainder of the term we will work on our knowledge and understanding of fractions including interpreting the fraction notation, working with unit fractions and finding equivalent fractions.

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.

## Science

Our topic this term for science is the *Sun, Earth and Moon*.



In this particularly exciting topic we will be studying our Solar System paying close attention to the Sun, Earth and Moon. We will find out some of the facts and figures regarding the size and distance between these three bodies and look at natural events such as day and night time, moon and earth orbits and how eclipses occur.

Please take time to remind your child not to look directly at the sun if they continue their interest in this topic outside of school. In addition, sunglasses are not designed for looking directly at the sun either and will not provide protection against eye damage if used in this way.

## History

This term we will begin our History topic: *the Mayan Civilisation*. The Mayan Civilisation existed from around 2000 BC in Mexico and Central America but the Classic Period from around 200AD onwards was when their cities became large and powerful. Throughout the term, we will look in detail at where they lived, when they were around, what they ate, their writing, number system and calendars as well as their gods. Hopefully over the Christmas period, the children have spent a bit of time researching some basic facts to help them with this topic so that we can further develop their understanding. They may also have some topic-related questions which we can look in to as the topic progresses.

## Art/DT

Our Art and DT will be combined in to an Art Day after the February half term. It will be linked to our history topic: Mayan Civilisation. The children, together with the wonderful help of our Art/DT specialist Mrs Elliott, will research and explore different Mayan Art, patterns and buildings and then create their own 3D structure.

## Computing

This term we will be starting a new unit of work looking at how music and sound can be stored and manipulated digitally. This will also include the children learning how to use a new piece of software that can be used to modify a sound file and add audio effects.

In our online safety lessons we will refresh our understanding on how to deal with online bullying at the start of the term and then take part in the Safer-Internet-Day during February. This is a national internet safety campaign provided by the UK Safer Internet Centre (<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>) and is used by many schools across the country.

## RE

This term we will be looking at a topic entitled *Values: What matters most to Christians?* The unit enables pupils to identify values in human life and to think about their own values. The focus is on the ways in which stories communicate values and the ways in which values make a difference to our lives. The children will be enabled to think for themselves about questions to do with what matters in life. The unit works towards an understanding of the values that people share and the fact that not all values are shared.

## Music

This half term class 2 will be listening to music and singing songs based around the theme of the magical world. We will continue with our work on pitch and the sol-fa signs, progressing further to pitch notation and developing the ability to sing in tune through sol-fa and the notes on the staff. We will sing songs in two parts and work on metre and beats fitting together.

## Spanish

*Feliz Año Nuevo* (Happy New Year) to you all.

For the next few weeks children in Y3 and Y4 will learn/review more numbers (11- 31) and the months in Spanish. They will learn some more Spanish vocabulary from a famous English children book and they will use language creatively to write their own story . They will start learning how to use a bilingual dictionary.

## 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 this half term is **Cognitive Skills**, with a physical focus on *Dynamic Balance* and *Coordination: Ball Skills*. The learning goals for this unit are;

- I can understand ways (criteria) to judge performance and I can identify specific parts to continue to work upon. I can use my awareness of space and others to make good decisions
- I can understand the simple tactics of attacking and defending. I can explain what I am doing well and I have begun to identify areas for improvement

- I can begin to order instructions, movements and skills. With help, I can recognise similarities and differences in performance and I can explain why someone is working or performing well

## **PSHE**

This term we will return to our focus of building growth mindsets in all of the children. We will look together at ways in which we can get out of a black hole for learning, before creating WANTED posters for positive learning and finally creating visual effort meters which will be displayed around the school.

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