



# Year 2 Spring Newsletter

January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! This term we have planned a curriculum full of creativity, enthusiasm and fun which we know the children will thoroughly enjoy.



### Maths:

This term we will begin with focusing upon the four operations. We love to make cross curricular links and this term we will be using our topic Great Fire of London as inspiration. We will travel back in time to become young Victorians who will use additional and subtraction skills to solve Mr Farriner's bakery problems!

Additionally, we will be using accurate measurements, reading scales and comparing amounts as part of our capacity unit.

The maths homework sent out will reflect the operation being focused upon as well as the strategy currently being used. In addition to this here are some useful maths websites:

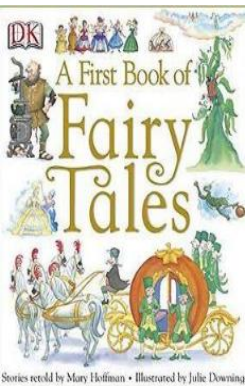
<http://mathszone.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=8>

[http://www.mathplayground.com/ThinkingBlocks/thinking\\_blocks\\_modeling%20\\_tool.html](http://www.mathplayground.com/ThinkingBlocks/thinking_blocks_modeling%20_tool.html)

### English:



This term we will be focusing upon the traditional tale of Hansel and Gretel. We always encourage links to be made to texts that we know will captivate the imagination of the pupils in our class. We want to bring the story to life by acting in role as Hansel and Gretel and imagining the thoughts and feelings of these characters. Writing in role, will be a highlight of our week - who knows perhaps the characters may reply or leave us some clues! We will learn how fairy tales have been changed and adapted over the years, inspiring us to create our own unique versions of Hansel and Gretel changing the character, setting or problem.



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In the afternoon, the children will be applying their phonics knowledge within our weekly spelling lessons. This will be a valuable time to learn new spelling rules and enhance our application of these sounds. In reading we will be using exciting and interesting texts whilst focusing upon key skills of retrieval, inference and evaluation. During these reading sessions, the children will be completing a wide range of reading activities in a carousel style. Each activity the pupils complete will be specifically designed to develop their comprehension and also encourage reading for enjoyment. The children will also get an opportunity to enjoy reading for pleasure in their classroom's reading area which have been designed and created as an inviting space to enhance their independent reading time.



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/>  
<http://www.funenglishgames.com/grammargames/verbnounadjective>  
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=43>

### **Topic: London's Burning!**

#### History Focus

During this topic we will be investigating primary and secondary sources in order to make predictions and assumptions, and find facts based on our findings. We will learn why the fire spread so quickly and if there was anyone who could have made better choices in order to prevent it. Writing in role as Samuel Pepys, becoming journalists recording the events of that day and letters of complaint to Thomas Bloodworth are just a few examples of how we will convey our understanding of this event!



#### **Art focus:**

Exploring the work of Stephen Wiltshire will deepen our knowledge and understanding of famous London Landmarks. We will learn how to use pencil and pen strokes/markings to create different patterns, tones and shades. Using marbling techniques, we will create our own blazing fire backgrounds for our London landmark silhouettes.



### **Topic: Shelters**

#### Geography focus:



We will be learning about the importance and purpose of shelters. We will create our own maps of where we live using keys and symbols for inside our homes. Taking a trip around the world using google maps and specially selected images we will consider how shelters are suited to different climates and the influences location has. This will lead nicely into our investigation of castles, learning about the purpose of these interesting buildings and their key features. We will play a 'through the keyhole' style game in which we will have to find out who lives in which castle and where the location of a particular castle is, using mapping skills.

#### DT focus:

Shrek and Donkey will make a very surprising entrance to this topic as they set us a task to fix the Kings Drawbridge that they broke when they escaped! We will be undertaking a very important big build in which we will need to work as a team to plan, design, build and evaluate our very own drawbridges. We will be using a pulley system to create working drawbridges for our castles. We will find solutions to technical problems that may arise, select the appropriate tools and components to ensure our drawbridges work!

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/samuel\\_pepys/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/samuel_pepys/)

<http://www.stephenwiltshire.co.uk/biography.aspx>

<http://www.usborne.com/quicklinks/eng/catalogue/catalogue.aspx?loc=uk&id=1703>

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<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=90>

### **Science:**

Science will begin with the exciting unit 'The Power of Forces'. We will compare how objects move over different surfaces and explore how some forces act from different distances. We will observe how magnets attract and repel materials and compare and group materials based on their magnetic properties. We will be able to identify magnetic poles and make predictions about magnetism.

Later on in the term, we will become apprentice gardeners as we observe and describe the growth of seeds and bulbs into mature plants and explore the needs for healthy growth.



<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z4ffr82>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=life+cycle>

### **Computing:**

Spring Term will start with us in role as Bug Data Collectors as we work with technology to collect and analyse a range of data and information about invertebrates living in the school grounds. We will use statistical charts, digital photographs and geolocation data (including GPS) – all of which are used by real zoologists!

Following on from this unit, we will delve into the world of email and communication. We will retrieve digital content from email messages, organise this content by making audio notes and by creating an information table. We will also create our own content as we respond to and compose email messages.

**Music:** In music we will be exploring pitch. We will be using the boom whackers to play a variety of simple tunes using our knowledge of pitch and how it can be changed. Our singing lessons will focus on call and response songs - we will build the children's confidence to lead the class in a solo call and response.



**PSHE:** In our personal, social and health education, we will be discussing ways in which we listen to other people's opinions and how to play and work co-operatively including strategies to resolve simple arguments through negotiation. We will be using drama strategies to bring scenarios to life and help empathise with others.

**RE:** We will begin by learning about prayer in other faiths. We will learn about Prayer in Islam and how important worship is to a Muslim. We will find out about the position of prayer in Islam and learn about the special preparations that happen before praying.

We will then be learning about the significance of the Easter symbols and the beliefs underlining them. We will be using Godly play and other stimuli to enhance both units of work allowing the children to respond thoughtfully and creatively to their learning.



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zj3d7ty/resources/>

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/easter/easterstory.aspx>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lets-celebrate-easterperformance>

**PE:** We will begin with a gym unit of work; focussing upon balance and travel on a variety of apparatus. In our outdoor PE session, we will be gaining skills involving ball games such as netball where we will learn different ways

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to pass a ball to a team member and ways in which we can stretch, jump and leap to catch too. This term we will be learning how to lead a warm-up and taking turns during each lesson!

**Homework:** In year 2, homework is set online for Maths and English. It is set on Education City, My Maths and Bug Club every Thursday. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete their homework each week. Please also ensure that your child reads at home to an adult **every day** and that a comment is recorded in the yellow reading record book.

We understand this is a lot of information to take in so please do come and speak to any of the Year Two team if you would like to discuss any of the above in further detail.

Thank you for your support,

Ms Kerry Bullock (Year 2 Oak Class Teacher)

Ms Lorna Walsh (Year 2 Birch Class Teacher)

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