

Panthers' Class

Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents,
Welcome back to school! We are really looking forward to working with your children and getting started with the Year 2 curriculum. I am really looking forward to getting to know your children and planning lots of exciting learning activities for us over the next year. We are very lucky to have Mrs Newstead and Mrs Brown supporting our learning this year. If you have any queries or concerns, please feel free to message on Class Dojo and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. When teaching it can be difficult to respond to messages so it is likely I may not reply until breaktimes or after school. I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks!
Miss MacKenzie

Literacy	Maths	Science	Geography/History
We will begin the term with writing character descriptions of animals. In this unit, we will be focussing on the children's use of adjectives, adverbs and expanded noun phrases. Following this unit, we will move onto retelling a familiar story, again encouraging the children to use varied features in their writing.	We will continue to follow the school's Maths Mastery Programme starting with numbers within 100, followed by addition and subtraction of 2 -digit numbers. We will then apply this learning to word problems. Maths in Y2 is a real step-up from Y1 so any practice at home is appreciated. It really helps build the children's confidence when they have a chance to consolidate learning at home. I will upload suggested activities each week.	In science, the children will be building on their learning from Year 1, starting by learning about living things. We will start off by thinking about whether various things are alive, dead or have never lived. This will tie in really nicely with the children's time enjoying forest school, especially as they progress into thinking about habitats!	In history we are going to be learning about the Great Fire of London; answering who, what, when, where, why and how questions. This was a real hit last year so I'm sure the children will enjoy the topic! In Geography, we will be learning about human and physical features. We will then be identifying these features in a local study of Kedington and going for a walk around the village!

Other subjects

Our wider curriculum subjects include computing, art, design and technology, religious education and music. We have lots of exciting activities planned for each of these subjects this term, including: exploring mark making through drawing, creating patchwork and experimenting with sounds.

PSHE, PE and Forest School

PSHE and the emotional wellbeing of pupils will continue to be at the forefront of our curriculum. This term, Panthers class will have P.E on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. As in Year 1, please send your children into school wearing their PE kits on both of these days. Children are expected to be wearing a plain white top with a dark jumper and shorts/ jogging bottoms.

We are very lucky that the Panthers will be enjoying forest school sessions on Tuesday afternoons with Mrs Runswick (during the autumn term). A full list of clothing needed has been posted on Dojo.

Homework and Spellings

Each week, I will upload a spelling task, maths task and a knowledge organiser to Showbie. Please spend time completing the activities with your child and discussing the key vocabulary on the knowledge organiser. Our Showbie class code is: GKCT9. The maths task will link to that week's learning and will vary between a sheet and simply a verbal task.

Reading and Phonics

Reading comprehension lessons will be taught twice a week. Throughout the year, the children will study a variety of different texts. (Many of these have also been recommended on the Year Two reading list).

Whole class phonics lessons will take place daily. We will be focussing on consolidating children's learning from Year 1. The main aim is to support children in becoming more fluent readers and more accurate spellers.

Please aim to listen to your children read daily. This does not have to be their school book, but instead could be signs and labels around them, as well as magazines and books from libraries and at home. When listening to your children read, it is highly beneficial if you also ask them questions about the text to develop their comprehension skills. This can include predictions, inference and checking understanding of vocabulary. **We will provide an orange home reading record book for parents to record reading comment in.** We will also note in these when your children have read to an adult in school. Reading books will be changed on a Monday (sometimes things do change in school so if they haven't been changed quite on time on occasion please bare with us!). Your children will bring home one phonics book relating to our current learning and one stage book specific to them. I cannot stress enough the value of re-reading books. This will help your children develop fluency and allow valuable opportunities for building understanding. Two to three times is an ideal number of times for them to read their home reading books.

The progress in reading in Year 2 is huge. By the end of the year, children are expected to be reading 90 words per minute. Your support with helping your children achieve this is greatly appreciated.!