

Birkwood Primary School

YEAR 2 NEWSLETTER January 2012

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and let's hope it's a happy one for everyone! I would like to thank everyone very much for all the lovely Christmas presents that were sent to me, it was very kind of you.

This is an important year for your children and they will need lots of encouragement and support over the term as we prepare ourselves for the Key Stage 1 tests.

Here is a summary of the areas we intend to cover over the next term:

Literacy/Creative Curriculum

This Spring Term we will be making links between literacy and other subjects in the curriculum through our topic 'Mega Structures'. The children are very excited already about this topic and have begun to bring in pictures from home.

The children will be looking at alphabetical order, dictionaries and glossaries. They will make a dictionary of interesting words connected to areas of the curriculum and their topic. We will also be looking at explanation texts; the children will learn how to explain a process in sequence using a flow chart, for example, the sequence of a tadpole changing into a frog.

We will be reading and writing poetry and continuing to improve our story writing by looking at sentence construction, using connectives, (for example: but, so, and, while) and time connectives, (for example: Then, After, Next). They will also be learning to use adjectives and more exciting and interesting vocabulary (for example: Suddenly, the sly fox streaked across the silent garden.)

There will still be lots of reading and sound work taking place in the classroom. This term, spellings will mostly be taken from sound work and high frequency words.

Spellings will continue to be given out and tested on Fridays.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of reading and the children have lots of opportunities to read in the classroom every day. We try very hard to change home readers regularly and we appreciate your continued support in encouraging the children to bring their book bags every day.

Mathematics

In mathematics this term, we will be concentrating on all four number operations - adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. The children will be using these operations to solve word problems. We will also be working on simple time, money, shape and measurement. The children will be making graphs and answering questions using the information from graphs.

We will also be concentrating on mental maths, such as, doubles (2+2), halves, odd, even numbers, 2, 5, 10 times tables.

ICT

The children will be continuing to practise their keyboard and word processing skills by using a story programme, in which, they have the opportunity to draw and write their own stories. This term, we will learn how to save and retrieve our work, also, how to insert a picture into a piece of work. We will continue to use the Internet safely to find information and facts about our topic.

The children will use the computer to reinforce mathematical concepts and phonic work by playing games involving addition, subtraction, shape, money, time etc.

Art/Design Technology

The children will be sharpening up their observational skills by doing some observational drawings. Opportunities will be given for painting, printing, clay and collage work. They will be making 'mega structures' using junk after designing their structure with labelling and captions.

PE

Our focus will be multi-skills, which consists of basic throwing and catching of different sized balls, also using beanbags, hoops, bats and hockey sticks.

Then we will be moving from the floor work of last term, to the big apparatus. We will be thinking about how we can move, dismount and jump onto/over these large pieces, such as boxes, wall bars and benches. We will learn about balance, co-ordination and landing safely. The children will also have to learn how to set out and put away the large apparatus safely.

During dance sessions this term, the children will be learning English country dancing.

- ❖ P.E sessions and dance sessions are on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We would appreciate it very much if you could ensure your child has the appropriate PE kit on these days. Thank you.

Homework

The children will be given homework on a Friday which should be brought back to school the following week. Homework will consist of spellings, reading and a piece of maths work. From time to time there may be other things such as handwriting for the children to practise. Again, we would appreciate your support in making sure that homework is completed.

There is a Homework Club that the children can attend to help complete their homework with support on hand ~ on Wednesday lunchtimes in the computer room.

Important dates for your diaries:

- ❖ S.A.Ts meeting for parents - Monday, 23rd January at 3.30pm
This meeting will give you information about the tests your children will be sitting in May of this year. You will be able to look at old test papers and ask any questions you may have.
- ❖ Parent's Evening - Monday, 6th February, beginning at 3.30pm
This is an opportunity for you to discuss your child's work and how they are progressing as we head towards the tests.
- ❖ **Class assembly - Wednesday, 21st March at 2.45pm**
This is an opportunity for the children to share with you what they have been learning. Please join us!

We hope that this Newsletter has been useful and thank you for your continued support. Of course, if you have any worries or concerns please do not hesitate to call in and arrange a mutually convenient time for us to meet.

With best wishes,

Mrs. A. Exley - Class Teacher

Mrs J. Bates - Teaching assistant

