

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s),

Welcome back to a new term in Year 2. We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and are ready for the busy time ahead! This term will be packed with lots of learning as always, so it is vital that your child is in school on time and every day. Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) will begin on Tuesday 3rd May and will be spread out over this half term. We need to provide a large amount of evidence to show what the children are capable of at the end of this Key Stage, and the tests and tasks are a crucial part of our formative and summative assessment of your child. The overall focus in lessons will be on English and Maths, with additional time being allocated to each as we try to raise standards in these key areas.



In English, we do handwriting each morning, practising the 'Continuous Cursive' style which has already improved the children's presentation, spelling and the speed at which they write. We also have a guided reading session where the children are encouraged to reflect on what they have read. During this time, the class teacher sits with a different group each day working on Reading Comprehension and Speaking and Listening skills. We also have a writing workshop once a week, which this term will focus on creative writing and report writing. You can help your child to improve by talking to them about what they read and asking them questions to check their understanding. You can also encourage them to ensure their writing makes sense by reading and editing. Please read every night with your child, and make sure that they can recognise and spell all of the high frequency words for Year 2! If you would like a copy of these words to practise with your child, then please see Nicky, Tara or Sandra.

In Maths the children will be consolidating ideas and skills learned last term and in previous years, and will be learning how to apply their knowledge in real life situations. Tests and tasks carried out in previous years have shown that children understand concepts in isolation, but find it hard to work out what it is they should do when confronted with a variety of problems. You can make a huge difference to their confidence with these concepts by making them a part of everyday life. When shopping, encourage your child to work out how much items cost, what the total cost will be, what the difference in price is between two items, how much several would cost and so on. At home, share the cooking with your child showing them how to measure using scales and jugs. When watching television, discuss programme times and how long their favourite show lasts. A concept that children struggle with particularly is division, so use every opportunity to share objects out and discuss how many each person gets to make it fair.



In Science we are looking at Living Things and their Habitats with a focus on Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest. Please take every opportunity to talk to your child about science. Visits to the Science Museum or the zoo are always good starting points, with lots of fun activities for children to explore.



In Computing the children will use the laptops and iPads in the classrooms to carry out activities, including internet based research, coding and E-safety which is always embedded into every lesson reminding the children how to use technology safely. Please remember to supervise your children when using computers, tablets and other technology to ensure you know what they have access to.



In Music we will continue to look at all of the musical elements using instruments and our voice, in particular exploring Timbre, Tempo and Dynamics. The children will also listen to and discuss a range of pieces of music.



In Art we will be focusing on observational drawing and using a variety of media and techniques to teach the children new skills. This will be linked to our topic, Brazil.



In Geography we will be looking at Brazil, considering human and physical features of the country through using atlases, information books, photographs, videos and computing. The work we do will be linked to Art, Design & Technology and RE. We will also be looking at the weather, land use, landmarks, plants and animals, work, school, food, social life and so on in order to build up a picture of what it is like to live in Brazil and the similarities and differences between there and London.

P.E. is on Tuesday for Ivory Class and Wednesday for Sapphire Class, so please make sure that your child is wearing loose fitting trousers, ideally tracksuit bottoms, and trainers or plimsolls. This term Year 2 will continue with gymnastics. They will also participate in a range of activities to improve their coordination and teamwork skills, in preparation for Sports Day.

If you have any questions about routines or the curriculum, or any concerns about your child, then please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak to the class teacher.

Kind Regards,

Sandra Hall
Sapphire Class

Nicky Bootes Tara Garde
Ivory Class

Nitsa Sergides
Headteacher