

Thank you to those of you who attended our Year Two parent meeting on Thursday 9th January. For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting, this is a brief outline of what was discussed.

Topic



This term our topic is London! In the first half of the term we will be learning about modern London, and in the second half we will learn all about historic London. Our focus in the first half term will be famous London landmarks, which will support their learning in Science, Art and DT. Due to the practicalities of getting to and from London as well as the time the children will have to spend on a coach, we will not be having a trip to London. Therefore, it would be a wonderful opportunity for you to find the time to visit our capital city at some point this term. The Millennium Bridge is a good place to see many of the landmarks the children will be learning about. It is very close to the Museum of London, which has a collection of Great Fire of London artefacts.

On **Wednesday 11th March**, we will be having a 'Great Fire of London Day', where there will be an interactive workshop as well as other fun and interesting activities to bring the topic alive. On that day the children are asked to dress up in clothes appropriate to the period, examples are shown here.



Mathematics

On **Tuesday 10th March**, we will be holding interactive workshops in the classroom to help your child in Maths. This is a valuable opportunity for you to see how we teach maths now and the strategies your child is learning to add, subtract, multiply and divide. Further information to follow.



Year Two Assessments

All children are formally assessed at the end of each key stage of their education. Your child will be assessed at the end of Year Two (the end of Key Stage One). We will be holding meetings on **Wednesday 15th January** at 9.10am to 10.15am and **Thursday 16th January** at 6.30pm until 8.00pm to explain how children in Year 2 will be assessed, what you can do to help and show you example tests, writing samples and expectations. This meeting has always been very well received and parents have found it incredibly valuable. The children will sit four tests during May, while teacher's final assessments continue throughout June. It is especially important that children are in school during this period. In line with our school's '*request for absence*' policy, holiday will not be approved.

Multi Faith Day with food festival after school

On **Thursday 27th February** (change of date from previous newsletter), the children will be learning about a variety of different religions. After school, everybody is invited to sample foods from different cultures, the local community and families within our school. Have you got a special dish you would like to share? Are you able to make something and donate to our festival? If so please speak to Miss Ritchie. Thank you!

Family Day

Instead of a Mothers Day assembly, this year there will be Family Day Assemblies on Friday 7th and Monday 10th February. All are welcome. Details to follow ☺

Home Learning

We will be sending out the 'Home Learning Menu' again as feedback regarding the trial of this homework has been positive and the quality of the learning and the engagement of most of the children has been very good. The expectation is that your child completes **a minimum** of three activities. During the Autumn Term some children actually completed four or five activities. You know who you are, well done! While we expect the children to complete the homework themselves, supervision and support from you is always appreciated. We will be sending out the 'Spelling Booklet' that contains the spelling rule/phonics rule and words your child should learn for the following week. Children should also spend 10 minutes reading most if not every day. Remember little and often is best ☺

Junior School Placements

We are concerned that there are still parents who have not applied for a Junior School place for next year. Please make sure you have applied for a place at a Junior School. **The deadline day is 15th January.** **There is no automatic transition to a Junior School.**



Friday Club

This term's activities include Cross Country, Recorders, Yoga, Library, Country Dancing and Art. 'Cross Country' will be taking place on the school playground (weather permitting) so please make sure your child has trainers or plimsolls they can run in, in their PE bags.

After their turn in the library, they will be bringing home a book from our school library. Once you have enjoyed their chosen book, they can return it to school at any point within that term.

General Notes

Please ensure your child has a coat in school, as we will go out to play even if it is raining. It seems that there may have been a Year 2 growth spurt over the holiday as some of the children are finding that their PE clothing is uncomfortable; please could you ensure that your child's clothing and plimsolls are the correct size. We will be going outside for some of our PE lessons so your child will need a pair of leggings or tracksuit bottoms to keep them warm. If your daughter wears tights in school, please could they bring in a spare pair of socks to keep in their P.E bag for when they are wearing plimsolls.

In relation to health and safety, we ask that all children with long hair ensure their hair is tied back as this helps minimise injury and prevents the spread of head-lice.

Please make sure you check your child's book bag regularly and encourage them to keep them tidy, so that letters to and from school can be easily seen. Just a reminder that we do not check the children's book bags but remind them to change their own books and hand in letters etc. If you have an important letter that needs giving in, we suggest handing it to them at the door to ensure we receive it.

Please no jewellery (apart from a small analogue watch), if their ears are pierced they **must** remove the earrings before coming to school.

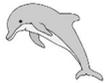
Volunteers

If you are able to spare an hour or two to help in school, please see your child's class teacher. Various 'jobs' include filing, laminating, listening to the children read and helping them within the classroom, so you can see how the children learn within the classroom. Parents who helped last year said it was beneficial seeing the maths strategies we teach, which then helped them to support their child better at home. Helping in class is always appreciated and the children love having their parents (or grandparents) come into their classroom to help.

Remember, our door is always open. If you have any questions or concerns please come and speak to us.

Thank you

The Year Two Team



Katharine Staples & Susi Care

Dolphin Class



Emily Ritchie & Jackie Doyle

Turtle Class



Ellie Day, Sue Barnes
& Jeanette Allaway

Penguin Class