

ST. MARY'S CE SCHOOL, PUTNEY

YEAR 2 BRIEFING LETTER TO PARENTS - SEPTEMBER 2019

Dear Parents /Carers,

Welcome back - We hope you all had a relaxing summer and that the children are looking forward to Year 2. We are all set to have a very enjoyable and busy term ahead. You are all invited to attend a Welcome Meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 6pm to find out more about what goes on in Year 2 and to ask any questions you may have.

The programmes of study for this half term are as follows:

**Maths:** Our programme includes - **Number and Place Value:** counting objects to 100, representing numbers to 100, tens and ones, representing numbers on a place value grid, comparing numbers, ordering numbers, counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. **Addition and Subtraction-** using number facts to check calculations, comparing number sentences, making number bonds to 100, finding 1/10 more/less, adding a 2 digit and 1 digit number, subtracting 1 digit number from a 2 digit number, adding two 2 digit numbers, subtracting two 2 digit numbers, adding three 1 digit numbers, solve word problems.

**Money:** counting coins/notes, showing equal amounts of money, comparing amounts of money, calculating total amounts, finding change, solving two step problems.

**English:** We shall be writing for a range of purposes and looking at traditional stories; listening and responding to poems; reading with confidence and understanding; oral comprehension; handwriting and spelling. Our Power of Reading Text is 'Grace and Family'. Phonics work will focus on 'silent letters' in words and alternative spelling patterns. Punctuation including speech, question and exclamation marks and commas in lists will be taught.

**RE:** Our topic is Hinduism. We shall be exploring the importance of symbols, beliefs and teaching in Hinduism and reflecting on what it means to be a Hindu. We shall also be visiting the Hindu temple after half term. More details to follow.

**TOPIC 1 - BRAINWAVES - The Art of Learning**

In this unit, we'll be finding out:

- How the brain works
- About the personal goals that help us to become better learners
- How to find out facts
- How to learn and practise skills
- How to record how well we are learning
- How to use what we have learned
- How to wake up our brain
- How to look after our brain
- How to design a classroom for learning

## TOPIC 2 - PEOPLE OF THE PAST

During this unit we will be focusing on significant historical figures in History. To launch the topic we shall be holding a Famous People Parade and Party on **Wednesday 11th September**. Children are asked to dress as a famous person from history and come to school prepared to share a few interesting facts about that person. As part of this topic we shall also be visiting The Florence Nightingale Museum on **Wednesday 25th September**. If you would like to escort and support a group of children on this trip please indicate via the online PACT book. At the end of our topic you are warmly invited into class to hear from the children what they have learnt this term. Date: **Wednesday 16th October at 2.30pm.**

In this topic we shall be:

- Exploring the decisions that rulers had to make in the past
- Using a living graph to explore how a famous person might have been feeling
- Finding out about a famous explorer using maps and role play
- Comparing an explorer from the past with a modern-day explorer
- Finding out about a famous scientist
- Finding out about important inventors and their inventions
- Comparing what life was like at different times in the past

### INTERNATIONAL:

- Exploring the idea of 'fairness'
- Finding out why some people in the past wanted to make change

**MUSIC** (with Mrs Le Prevost): In Year 2 this term we will be focusing on developing listening skills by being aware of sounds around us and trying out the different timbres of instruments, as well as listening to music by and learning about a famous classical composer to link in with our class topic 'People of the Past'. We will also experiment with controlling pitch and rhythm through singing and action songs and learn how to respond to start/stop signals.

Recorder lessons will take place on Thursday afternoons once again. Please ensure your child has a labelled recorder for their lesson each week.

**ART** (with Mrs Adams): Across the school we will be developing our drawing skills this half term. Everyone will have the opportunity to create the templates for Christmas cards and mugs in time for half-term. Year 2 will use their sketch-books from the start of the Autumn Term and we will include portraits from art history throughout the year. I will introduce the Class to the proportions of the face using a variety of media.

**COMPUTING:** We shall be practising our touch typing skills using BBC Dance mat and learning about e-safety using the Hector's World programme.

**PSHE:** We will be covering the topic of 'Being Me in My World.' We will be writing a class learning charter, looking at our hopes and fears for the year, our rights and responsibilities, rewards and consequences.

**PE:** PE will take place on Mondays and Tuesdays. On both days children may come to school in PE kits. Mondays - children will change into uniform after their lesson but on Tuesdays, PE kits can be worn all day. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit (named). This half term pupils will focus on movement and ball skills. They will link a range of movement patterns and find space. In addition the class will practice throwing and catching individually, dribble, pass and receive using different pieces of equipment. Skills will be applied through a range of co-operative games.

### Y2 Home Learning Routines:

#### **ALL HOME LEARNING MUST BE NAMED**

It is expected that children will read aloud every night for at least 10 minutes. Reading folders are sent home daily. Could you please ensure that you write in the Reading Journal when your child has finished their books otherwise they won't be changed! Books will be changed, if requested, on **THURSDAYS ONLY**. Any other comments or feedback regarding your child's reading are always welcome via the online PACT book.

#### **All home learning is sent home on Friday.**

'Child of the Week' to be handed in on Monday (a coloured rectangular piece of card). Make sure your child finds an interesting word/phrase to describe the child of the week and then check the meaning and spelling in a dictionary before decorating it.

A Handwriting reinforcement sheet is to be completed by Wednesday. Dictation sentences that reinforce the spellings learnt and tested in the previous week are also to be returned by Wednesday.

Spelling tests will take place on Fridays and results will be written on the card if it is handed in. Mental Maths tests take place every Thursday (test cards are sent home so that you can see how they did and what your child needs to learn the following week).

Once every half term a Topic Project will be sent home. Clear details will be attached with regard to instructions, timescale and success criteria.

Children are expected to name and **complete all home learning in pencil** (unless they have been chosen as 'Handwriter of the week,' in which case, for that week they can do their handwriting home learning in pen). Please can you ensure that your child's spelling card remain in their folder at all times so that we can inform you of their tests results. Please can you also encourage your child to hand in their home learning as we do not check their folders now that they are in Year 2.

We have a number of reward systems in class, one of which is the '**Kindness Box**'. At the end of each day, we select children who have shown kindness, good manners or thoughtful behaviour. The children may then choose an item from the box to keep. If you have any small party bag sized items that we could add to the box, these would be gratefully received.

We welcome all parents/carers who would like to help in school, either through cooking, listening to readers, supporting children's art work or during class trips. A DBS check will need to have been completed and a volunteer induction session attended (**Monday 23rd September 1.45pm-3pm next session**). Please sign up in the office. If you are unable to attend this session but would like to

volunteer please leave your name in the office and we will try to accommodate an evening session, if sufficient numbers dictate this to be needed.

Please don't hesitate to contact me either via the online PACT book or in the playground if you need any further information.

Kindest regards

Wendy Livingstone (Year 2 Class Teacher)

Irene Ford (Year 2 Teaching Assistant)