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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a delight to welcome back the children into Year 2, they have remembered some of our key routines so beautifully and fantastically whilst also adapting to some of the new expectations of Year 2. We are both excited to be teaching in Kingfisher Class again and looking forward to guiding your child through the year. Communication between home and school is crucial for children's progress, so with this in mind, please do not hesitate to send a post-it note with your child in their reading record should you wish to alert us to any matter, for example if your child is to be collected at the end of the day by another parent. If all items of clothing could be named, that also would help enormously in returning items to their rightful owner. This includes water bottles please. Thank you in advance for your support in this. We hope that your child will thrive, progress and enjoy the year. To make the home school partnership easier, here is some information about the curriculum topics we cover this term.

Reading

Reading is essential for progress. It is key to accessing all areas of the curriculum and the expectation is that your child reads aloud to an adult on a daily basis. As in Reception and Year 1, reading continues to be taught daily through the Bug Club phonics programme, mostly focusing on suffixes and prefixes now they know their sounds so well. Guided reading and reading comprehension tasks will take place towards the end of the week and will further support your child's fluency and understanding of text structure and meaning.

Children should take their reading diary home and read aloud each evening to an adult, then bring both the reading diary and the home reader back to school the following morning signed with the latest reading session. A change we have made in Year 2 means the children will now change their coloured book band independently on any day when this has been read. This encourages independence and personal choice.

Please discuss the text with them as they read aloud, questioning them on meaning and explaining any unfamiliar vocabulary. These conversations around the text are invaluable. The reading diary can also be used for communication purposes. Although your child will bring home a book each day matched to their phonic knowledge, please encourage them to include any other reading matter from home in their reading diary. We enjoy finding out about the children's choices, preferences and then offering recommendations.

The Reading Dog bookmarks designed to encourage and guide parents on what to question their children on during their reading, will again be printed and given out to the class soon.

Homework

As before, homework will be set on a **Friday** in the folders **to be completed by the following Monday (10 days later)**. This can however be handed in at any point beforehand. This allows for staff to mark, assess and manage the homework. Generally, your child will be given an English and Maths task each week, although occasionally other subjects may be included.

Spelling

Spelling Shed words will be given out on **Thursday** and then tested every **Wednesday**. This year their spelling words will be linked to the SPAG curriculum for Year 2, this includes some phonic patterns but also punctuation or grammar rules. Currently, we are setting up new logins for the classes after which the children's spelling shed homework will be set online only. Until then, we will be giving out a paper spelling list next Thursday to learn for the following week.

Spelling Stars, comprising National Curriculum Year 2 vocabulary and high frequency words (HFW) will be given out at the beginning of each term to be learnt for a test during the last week of term. **These will also be added to Spelling Shed** so they can practise these words at any time over the term. Please encourage your child to practise any spellings they are given. It will benefit them considerably as they continue up through the years. Again, thank you in advance for your support.

Lastly, as a whole school, we have recently added a new spelling book for the children to use in class. This book will be used to write and spell unknown words in. They can then refer back to these words at any point during the school day. This reference point will help the children to broaden their vocabulary and strengthen their spelling ability.

P.E.

Kingfisher Class will have P.E on Monday and Tuesday with Mr. Whittle, our specialist P.E. teacher. Please continue to send your child to school in their P.E. kit on these days. This term, one session will focus on fundamental skills and the other on ball skills. **Please refer to the school website or our Meet the Teacher slides (when given) regarding correct P.E. kit.**

English

As in recent years, we began with a whole school study of the same text, this time 'In our Hands' by Lucy Farfort. Following on from that, Kingfishers will study 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon, before moving on to two books by the same author, Emily Gravett.

The writing skills covered at this term:

- ... Accurately form letters in a cursive style.
- ... Write simple sentences using capital letters and full stops, extending to using a range of punctuation, connectives, openers and adjectives
- ... Use varied, appropriate vocabulary.
- ... Use expanded noun phrases.
- ... Consider what he/she is going to write before beginning (ideas, new vocabulary, key words).
- ... Begin to use paragraphs and appropriate layout to add clarity to writing.
- ... Spell words with increasing accuracy.
- ... Write setting and character descriptions.
- ... Write letters for a specific purpose.
- ... Writing in role using the first person.
- ... Use heading and sub-headings when writing an information text.

Maths

The maths skills your child will learn this term are as follows:

- ... Count objects to 100 by making 10s.
- ... Recognise 10s and 1s.
- ... Partition numbers to 100.
- ... Write numbers to 100 in words.
- ... Place 10s and 1s on a number line to 100.
- ... Compare and order objects and numbers.
- ... Count in 2s, 5s and 10s.
- ... Count in 3s.
- ... Number bonds to 10.
- ... Number bonds to 100.
- ... Add and subtract 1s.
- ... Add by making 10.
- ... Add 3-digit numbers.
- ... Subtract a 1-digit number from a 2-digit number.
- ... 10 more, 10 less.
- ... Add and subtract 10s.

Science

In Science we will be studying Living things and their habitats to include the following:

- ... Distinguish living organisms from non-living things
- ... Investigate living things and their habitats.
- ... Gather and record data to answer questions.
- ... Handle living creatures and plants with care.
- ... Perform simple investigations.
- ... Know the life processes of all living things.

Music

Music is now taught throughout the school using the new music scheme Kapow. The focus in music will be Call & Response with a focus on animals before we begin Nativity songs towards Christmas.

R.E.

Our enquiry question for this term is: Who should you follow? The learning objectives are to find out about religious leaders and discover how and why they are followed. Areas covered are:

- ... Qualities of a good leader.
- ... Moses.
- ... Joshua.
- ... The role of a vicar.
- ... The role of a Rabbi.
- ... Similarities and differences between people who lead us.

PSHE

We have recently invested in a new scheme for PSHE, Kapow, and it is offering the children some fantastic ways to explore the world around them. This term, our topic is Families & Relationships, during which we will develop our understanding and recognition of family types, dynamics and the impact these close connections can have on us. The overall unit outcomes are:

- Understand that families offer love and support and that different families may be made up of different people.
- Consider what friends may be thinking and feeling in different situations.
- Recognise some issues that may occur in friendships and which of these may need adult help to resolve.
- Understand that expectations of manners may change according to the situation.
- Know that remembering people who were important to them but are no longer here can cause a mixture of emotions.
- Explain what gender stereotypes are in relation to careers.

Computing

Computing is taught in terms 1, 3 and 5. Computing lessons follow a structured programme, this term focusing on computing systems and networks. Children will learn:

- ... The difference between a desktop and laptop computer.
- ... That people control technology.
- ... Some input devices that give a computer an instruction about what to do (output).
- ... That computers often work together.
- ... Common uses of information technology beyond school.
- ... To use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content.
- ... Use logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programmes.

D.T.

During Terms 1, 3 and 5, Kingfishers will embark on D.T. projects. In Autumn 1, our D.T. project will be to make a moving monster. This will involve:

- ... Exploring and evaluating a range of existing products.
- ... Examining and using mechanisms such as levers, sliders, wheels and axles.
- ... Designing a purposeful, functional and appealing product for themselves and other users based on design criteria.
- ... Generating, developing, modelling and communicating their ideas through talking and drawing, templates, mock-ups and where appropriate, using information and communication technology.
- ... Evaluating their ideas and products against design criteria.
- ... Selecting and using a wide range of materials and components.

Art and Design

Although drawing and painting is often incorporated into other areas of the curriculum, for example to provide inspiration for writing in English, Art and Design is also studied as a discrete subject in Terms 2, 4 and 6. This term, children will be using charcoal to:

- ... Develop a range of mark making techniques.
- ... Making observational drawings.
- ... Creating characters and adding expressions.
- ... Develop illustrations to tell a story.

History and Geography

As with Art & D.T., humanities are taught alternately. We start the year with Geography, looking at oceans and continents. Kingfishers will:

- ... name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans.
- ... use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the continents and oceans studied in Key Stage 1.
- ... use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical and human features.

Next term in History we will identify how people used their voices or actions to make a difference during the Victorian era, focusing on Lord Shaftesbury and Dr. Barnardo.

We hope this overview of the term ahead is useful to you. Once again, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Law & Mrs. Bailie