

Dear Y2 Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a wonderful Easter break. It is lovely to see the children back at school again as we embark on the summer term. We have another busy half term ahead of us, so do please check your emails regularly and we will put things on X (previously twitter) too. We can't wait to see what the children achieve this half term as they are working so hard in Y2 and make us smile every day. Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you.

PE

Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday and for the remainder of the year, we will be partaking in both indoor and outdoor PE lessons. Please ensure your child has their kit in school on these days and this includes a pair of trainers and tracksuit for outdoor PE. Children also need to have their earrings removed if they are unable to do this themselves. Thank you for your support.

Homework

This half term we would like our Y2 children to focus on learning their times tables. Times tables are an important part of the maths curriculum and by the end of Y2, we aim for children to know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables by heart, ready to move into KS2. TT Rock Stars is a website which we as a school subscribe to and one which allows each child to practise their times tables. We have set your child up with a login, which has been sent home, and have assigned specific times tables to them. When we can see that your child is fluent and has rapid recall of the tables they are currently working on, we will then move them onto the next times tables. Please focus on playing the 'GARAGE' game (as outlined in the letter we sent home) and aim to spend a little bit of time 2 or 3 times a week practising them. Short, frequent bursts of practise and lots of repetition really are key to becoming fluent and speedy with the mental recall of times tables. We can't wait to hear how the children in Y2 are getting on!

Reading Books

We are proud of how hard our children are working on their reading at school and we appreciate parental support with reading at home as well. Please aim to read at home with your child at least 3 times per week and reading raffle tickets will be awarded for reading.

Spelling books

The children will continue bringing home their spelling book on a Friday. They will have their new spelling list stuck in and these will also be on Spelling Shed. Please support your child in learning their spellings. They will be regularly assessed in their spellings. Their spelling books need to be in school every **Friday**.

Toys

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that toys should **not** be brought into school (this includes toys clipped onto rucksacks and book bags) unless there has been a prior arrangement made with your child's teacher. They do cause problems amongst the children and we do not want any child to be upset should their toy get lost or broken. Thank you for helping us with this matter.

Water bottles

Just a reminder that all children need to have a water bottle in school every day (particularly as the warmer weather is hopefully around the corner!) Again, unless there is a prior agreement made in person with your child's teacher, the bottle should contain water not juice.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do ask a member of the Year 2 team and we will do our very best to answer your questions. We really do appreciate the support we receive from our Y2 parents.

You can find The Elms on Twitter (now known as X) @TheEllisY2. We use X to share the learning we are doing at school, celebrate achievements and give information.

Kind Regards

The Y2 Team

Summer 1 learning overview

English

We will be working from two lovely books about looking after the planet. The first is *'The Water Protectors'* and the second is *'Dear Earth'*. We are looking forward to some exciting writing of poems, letters and information leaflets. Your support in raising your child's awareness of how we can all help the planet is very much appreciated.

Maths

This half term we begin with our unit *'Fractions'* and will start by learning to recognise 'equal' and 'unequal' parts.

We will then move onto recognising and finding a half, a quarter, a third, two quarters, three quarters and two thirds of a shape, object and quantity. Our second unit is entitled *'Time'* and we will learn to read and write the time to five minutes (e.g. twenty five minutes past three). We will also be learning how many minutes in an hour and how many hours in a day.

Art

In Art, we will be using clay to roll shapes and create a range of marks. We will learn to join clay shapes using the scoring and slipping technique. We will end the unit by creating a clay house tile that has recognisable features made by both impressing objects into the surface and by joining simple shapes.

Computing

We will be learning how to use ScratchJr on the iPads. We will begin to understand that sequences of commands have an outcome and make predictions based on their learning. We will use and modify designs to create our own quiz questions and realise these designs in ScratchJr using blocks of code.

History

In History, we will be exploring the question *'What is a monarch?'* We will be learning to identify a monarch's role and exploring the objects used and the steps involved in a royal coronation. We will then use sources to explain how William the Conqueror became King of England and how he kept order and conquered England. We will then move onto identifying and comparing two different types of Norman castles and study how castles have changed over time.

Music

We will be learning about pitch and tempo in our unit entitled "*On this Island: British songs and sounds*". During the unit we will be learning about music of the British Isles and creating music of our own. We will learn to compose a piece of music as part of a group and to evaluate and improve our composition.

PE

We will be focusing on 'Athletics' and 'Dance'. In athletics we will focus on running at different speeds, jumping and throwing and in dance we will create sequences based on the rainforest and Jack Frost.

PSHE

We will be thinking about working in our world and earning and spending money and keeping healthy, with a focus on brushing teeth.

RE

In RE, we will be exploring the question '*Does going to the Mosque give Muslims a sense of belonging?*' During the unit we will look at what it means to 'belong' and different groups we belong to. We will then learn about what happens when Muslims visit a mosque and the different parts of a mosque. We will end the unit thinking about praying alone and praying in a group.

Science

Our Science unit '*Growing Plants*' begins by exploring how seeds grow into different plants. We will then learn that plants can be grown from bulbs or seeds and that seeds are dispersed in different ways. We will also plan, carry out and evaluate an investigation into the conditions that affect germination and will observe and describe how a plant changes as it matures.