

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your children all feel settled in to Year 2 now. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Meet the Teacher session and all of you at Parent Consultations.

Our topic for this half-term is called "Festivals!" All subjects will be linked into this theme as part of our creative approach to the curriculum.



Literacy: Our focus this half term will be on re-telling religious and historical stories and creating poems and information sheets about Autumn and Winter festivals from a range of cultures. Children will be encouraged to link these stories to their own personal experiences as well as develop and use skills to re-tell the main events of the story in narrative and non-narrative forms. We will be learning about Diwali, Halloween, Guy Fawkes, Hannukah and Christmas. Our grammar learning this half term will be wide ranging and include parts of speech, noun phrases, accurate use of punctuation as well as using subordinating and coordinating conjunctions.

Numeracy: We will continue to focus on number and be attempting challenging problems involving adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers from 2 and 3 digit numbers as well as applying these skills to money activities involving giving change. We will also be learning how to recite and use facts from the 2, 10, 5 and 3 times tables.

Other curriculum subjects:

In Science lessons we will be learning about the human life-cycle and life-cycles of a range of other animals including birds, amphibians and insects. This will link to our PSHE topic about the differences and similarities between males and females.

Our Geography lessons will be focused on learning about the continents and oceans of the world and linked to the religious stories we are covering in Literacy. In particular, we will be looking at world maps, atlases, globes and on-line resources to locate Asia and India, followed by the Middle East and locations there that are mentioned in "The Nativity Story". These studies will also link into our objective of contrasting countries and places from a different continent with locations in the UK

In Computing children will continue to write code for programmable "Sprites" using "Scratch" Software. We will also be researching a range of animals on websites ensuring the children understand the importance of E-safety and they will type documents about religious festivals using "Word" and learn how to edit, illustrate, save and print their work.

Our Design and Technology lessons will explore safe and hygienic food preparation as well as designing and testing recipes from a range of cultures and festivals.

As advised by the government, schools are now required to promote the following British values:

- Tolerance
- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect

Throughout the year we will look at the five British Values, this term we will learn about Mutual Respect. Lessons will focus on what it means to accept and embrace other races, religions, and ideas without prejudice or judgment. We will learn about respecting others for their differences whether they are race differences, religious differences or even socio-economic differences. We will be celebrating World Tolerance Day on 16th November.

Our Christmas Production this year is called "Prickly Hay" and is a charming traditional nativity play. Please look out for costume requests over the coming weeks and help your child learn the lyrics to the songs and their lines.

Finally, if you can support our new topic in any way, please let me know. We would be delighted to welcome parents who would like to share their experiences of Diwali, Hannukah, Christmas and any other religious or secular festivals your family celebrate.

Thank you

Mrs McNevin
Year 2 Class Teacher