

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children have now settled into the routines of Year 2 and we would like to keep you up to date with forthcoming events and challenges.

Topic

We have enjoyed discovering all about the rainforests of Brazil last half term and we were particularly proud of the way in which the children conducted themselves during our trip to Cadbury World. Since then, the children have designed a new range of healthy flapjacks and we will make these over the course of this half term. We are now looking forward to learning more about our new topic *The Great Fire of London*.



Reading challenge

Your child should have received their new reading challenge card at the start of the this week. This year the children have been asked to gather pirate treasure into their treasure chest. In order to earn the treasure, the children have to read for 10 minutes to an adult at home who can then sign one of the boxes on their card. Once they have ticked off three boxes on the card, the children can put a gold coin into the class treasure chest. During achievement assemblies, the week's winning pirates will move their ship along a display in the hall. At the end of the half term, the winning class will get to enjoy a pirate themed day.



Talk 4 Writing

We are very pleased with the progress that the children are making with their writing. They have enjoyed learning different texts before creating their own versions. We are going to begin to send home the text maps that the children have been using to help them to learn the story. This will allow them to share the stories and other texts with you at home.



Times Tables Challenge

So far this year, the children have been learning their times tables as part of our Maths lessons and as part of our everyday activities. Most recently they have been applying their knowledge of times tables to support them in our Money topic so that they can count up in 2ps, 5ps and 10ps. As this is a crucial skill, we would like to invite the children to undertake a Times Tables Challenge. Each child will have a challenge sheet. We would like them to practise their times tables at home and when they think that they have achieved one of the awards, then an adult can sign it off. Once they reach a Gold Award standard in a times table, a school adult will test them and then they will be presented with a badge.



Spelling

Each week the children will receive weekly spellings again. The spellings that your child receives will be from the "Tricky Word" list which is taught in school alongside our phonics lessons. We have tested the children on all of these words and we have matched our new spelling lists directly to your child's spelling needs. Once they have learnt all of the words in their set, they will move on to another set which contains words that they still need to learn. Their spellings will be tested each Friday and, if your child needs a new set of words, they will be given the next set that they need. If there are particular words that your child is finding difficult, we will highlight these so that their time and effort can be focussed on learning words that they find most difficult. Should your child learn all of the "Tricky Words" they will progress to securing Year 2 Common Exception Words.



Dates for your diaries...

Friday 10th November
Remembrance 2 Minutes Silence

Monday 13th November
Anti-bullying & RE Week
The theme for our anti-bullying week this year is *All different, all equal*. During some of the lessons this week, the children will have the opportunity to learn all about what it means to be different and how it is important that we respect and celebrate each other's differences. We will also link this to learning about Judaism.

Thursday 16th November
Flu Vaccinations

Friday 17th November
Children in Need
Wear something spotty for a £1 donation and visit the bake sale at the end of the day.

Friday 1st December 3:15pm
Christmas Fair

Monday 11th December, 6pm
& Tuesday 12th December, 6pm
Year 2 Christmas Show—
Christmas with the Aliens
The children and staff in Year 2 warmly invite you to join us as we celebrate Christmas with our performance of *Christmas with the Aliens*.

Tuesday 19th December, 2:00pm
Year 2 Christmas Banquet
As a finale to our Great Fire of London topic, we would like to invite you to a Christmas banquet. As part of our topic, we will be asking the children to prepare historical food and we would like to share some of these recipes with you. It will also give you an opportunity to celebrate the learning that the children have been doing over the course of this term.

Synagogue Trip
Date TBC

To help the children gain a deeper understanding of Judaism, we are planning to take them on a trip to a synagogue this half term. Once we have confirmed a date for this visit we will let you know the details in a separate letter.