**Year 2 Newsletter**

**Spring 2019**

Welcome back to another exciting term at Bartons; hopefully you all had a wonderful Christmas break. The children have quickly settled back into our routines and are ready and raring to go with their new learning. We are very lucky to have Mrs Hazelden join the team, alongside myself and Mrs Cook. Mrs Windeatt will be teaching the class every Monday and some Thursdays.

Topic

This term our topic is split into two parts. First half term it is ‘Fire and Ice’ where we will be learning about hot and cold countries and their human and physical features. This will link to our work that we completed in Science week about living things and their habitats. In Geography we will also be creating a weather book where we will compare our weather with two countries that have a hot/cold climate. Our History focus will be the Great Fire of London and in DT we will be making the houses.

After half term our topic will be ‘Titanic’ where we will learn about the history of the ship and its tragic journey. All our wider curriculum and English work will be linked to it and we are in the process of arranging a visit to Southampton's SeaCity Museum – more details soon.

English

Our English work this half term is story writing, focused on sequels. After half term we will be looking at non-chronological reports, writing facts about Titanic.

Alongside our writing we will be continuing to work on our grammar, spelling and phonics in order to prepare for the end of Year 2 SATS. We will also continue our hard work on handwriting which will be supported by daily activities.

Daily reading will also be vital for the children to reach the expected standards at the end of the year. It is therefore crucial that all children have their reading books in their book bags every day. This will be supported by regular group and whole class reading sessions where we will be focusing on the different reading skills the children need to develop.



Maths

We are continuing to use the Numicon approach where we link the concrete, pictorial and abstract to ensure they understand the concepts we are learning. We are moving onto multiplication and division and will be completing more reasoning activities to apply our knowledge. We will also start to look at SATS styled questions.

SATS

As explained in the previous newsletter, in Year 2 the children have to take the ‘End of Key Stage SATS’ which will support the teacher assessment we will be completing throughout the year. The children will be assessed against the ‘Teacher Assessment Framework’ for Reading, Writing, Maths and Science. Thank you to all who could attend the meeting about SATS last week but for those who missed it there are copies of the handout and the PowerPoint is on our class page of the website. Please remember I am happy to answer any questions.

Homework

Take Away Tasks will continue to be set every Friday and will be due in the following Friday. We will continue to have the same format of having different tasks for you to choose alongside at least one that will have to be completed. The children who do not have their homework book in school on the Friday with the work completed to a satisfactory level will have to miss some or all of their Golden Time to do it.

How can you help?

* **Regular reading** at home where you can share stories, asking and answering questions about what you have read.
* Ensure they have their school **reading book in school every day** as the children will be expected to read it after lunch, a time where those who are on Accelerated Reader can complete their quizzes.
* Encourage them to complete their homework tasks while letting them develop their independence.
* Check our class page on the website to discuss their learning further.
* We also have a great number of **jumpers and cardigans without any names**. Please ensure you name them as we do not have the time to search for them.
* The children need to be at school promptly in the morning as they complete their Learn It’s and handwriting before phonics at 9.05.

Important dates:

TITANIC MUSEUM – Wed 20th March, more details soon

CHESTNUT CLASS ASSEMBLY Friday 22nd March - 9:15am

Hopefully we will keep you up to date with any events and you can always check the timetable in the classroom window.

Any problems or questions please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Year 2 Team