

Dear Parents and carers,

Our last half term is upon us and I cannot believe how quickly this year has gone. I stood back and watched the class working independently earlier this week and took some time to reflect on just how much your children have matured and developed this year. Sometimes we miss that when looking at them day to day, but looking back at their work in September shows how far their learning journey has come this year.

Coming up this half term we have some exciting events to look forward to, including trip to Henry Moore on the 21st June, our concert at the South Mill Arts Centre on the 24th June, Sports Day and watching the Year 5 and 6 performance. We will also complete a transition session with our new teacher as well as other transition activities to ensure we are fully ready for Year 3.

The government has dropped the requirement for Year 2 to complete statutory tests. We will still have assessments, just as the rest of the school and these will help to inform assessment judgements (which will be shared on reports), but these will not be reported externally.

Curriculum Overview

Maths

We begin this half term with telling the time (o'clock, half past, quarter past, quarter to and beginning to explore telling the time in 5 minute intervals) and identifying names and properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will also revisit many of the topics we have covered this year, consolidating learning in addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, fractions and measures.

English

We begin this half term for Year 2 will be The Owl and the Pussy Cat and its sequel, exploring new vocabulary, writing our own poems and creating dialogue between characters. We will end the year with a unit based on the text "Tadpole's choice", a final opportunity for the children to be authors and create a narrative based on the stimulus.

Spelling links with our text and the words identified for the children to learn will be familiar to them through the English lessons and spelling sessions that we do. Spelling lists will be set on Spelling Shed and will be tested each Thursday. We continue to work on phonics sessions too.

Guided reading In guided reading, we will explore analysis of poems before reading "Fanatical about Frogs". We will continue to develop vocabulary, explaining and retrieval skills through this non-fiction text.

In handwriting, we continue to work on our letter joins. Many children are working well with their pencil grip and are using joined writing in much of their work which is a delight to see.

Science – We are learning about different scientists and carrying out our own experiments based on the concepts they discovered. An excellent opportunity for predicting and analysing findings.

Computing - We will complete our Coding Unit and learn about research strategies.

Art – We will be exploring sculptures, including the work of Henry Moore. We will have the opportunity to create sculptures in a variety of materials and understand how light, form and material can change the visual impact of a piece of work.

PE – This half term our PE lessons will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will develop our athletics and OAA skills initially and conclude with gymnastics.

PSHE – Changing Me – This topic explores how our bodies change over time, including the names of different body parts and also looks at changes that are happening with moving classes.

RE– Judaism – How do Jewish people show their commitment to God? We consider the best ways Jewish people show their commitment and how this contributes to society.

Home – Communication

Please email the school office if you need to pass on a message (including if a different adult will be collecting from school). Please do not use the messenger system within Class Dojo as these will not be read.

Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the children take pride in the way they dress for school. This does include no nail varnish or earrings. Long hair must be tied up without the use of large bows and accessories. Please see the school website for school uniform requirements. Please also be aware that when your child moves to Year 3 there are slightly different uniform requirements for KS2 children (namely a white collared shirt and Hillmead tie.)

Please note we now have a new PE uniform which consists of a red polo shirt with the Hillmead logo, replacing the white T-shirt which did not wear well. We ask that all children have one of these polo shirts in their kit from September 2024.

Water bottles and snack

All children must have a named water bottle filled with water in school each day. If providing a squash or juice for lunch this should be in addition to water, not instead of.

The children are provided with fruit as part of the government's fruit for schools scheme. If you choose to send in a snack instead then this must only be a piece of fruit or vegetable.

Homework

Homework is set on Class Dojo on a Thursday and should be submitted online (unless otherwise stated) by the following Thursday. There will be a variety of tasks set each week:

Mathletics (2 tasks, accessed via the Mathletics website)

Spelling – Spelling Shed Assignments – try to do at least 1 minute a day

Reading – 2 books given per week. Please try to read for ten minutes a day

Timestable Rockstars - At least 1 minute per day – but the more they do, the more confident they become!

Curriculum based task which will link to what we are doing in class. It may be a consolidation task, or could be a preparation task.

This next few weeks are going to fly by, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given to your children with their learning this year and I look forward to seeing you at the many events taking place before July.

Mrs Suttle