

Spring Newsletter – Year 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a fantastic break over Christmas and that 2023 brings you all health and happiness. The children have returned full of enthusiasm for our new topics and have settled back into the daily routines of the day! The Spring Term brings new learning and some exciting adventures for everyone.



Creative Curriculum



Our main topics this term are, 'The Titanic' and 'Explorers', which focuses on Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. The children will learn many new skills and concepts through these exciting topics. As well as covering a range of **History** objectives, we will use our **Geography** skills to devise a map of the Titanic's route and make a Titanic-themed tea light in the style of local artist George Hunter in our **Art & Design** sessions. In **Music**, we will continue to practise our Ocarina skills by learning Titanic-themed music and will examine how music can create changes to mood and communicate ideas, by examining clips from the film. **Computing** will support the children's ability to research and find information about our topics using key words and websites. We are all so excited to get started!

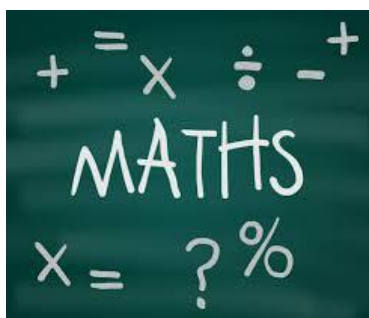
English

We will be exploring a range of different genres such as letter and diary writing, instructions, recounts and character descriptions through our creative curriculum topics. We will be developing our understanding of vocabulary and how authors use language to create atmosphere. We will develop our reading skills to retrieve and infer information in order to answer questions to show our understanding.



Please note: Spelling tests and times tables tests will now take place on Wednesday mornings.

Maths



We will continue to consolidate our understanding of number bonds to 20 and 100, applying these facts to solve problems through a range of contexts. Year 2 will explore the mathematical topic of measuring mass, distance, length, volume, capacity, time and temperature. We will also explore Geometry, focussing on the properties of 2D and 3D shapes as well as using positional language to describe quarter and half turns. All of these objectives will be challenging and children are encouraged to apply their understanding to solve problems whilst continuing to develop their knowledge of the 10-, 5-, 2- and 3-times tables.

Times Tables – Each week, now on a Wednesday, your child will take part in a times tables challenge where they will answer multiplication and division questions based on the times tables that they are learning at that time. These are shared in the maths notebook inside the reading folder. Your child will also have the opportunity to develop their online skills by using 'Times Tables Rock Stars.'

PE

PE will take place every Friday morning, where Mrs McMaster will lead their PE sessions. Please can you send your child into school wearing their **full PE kit (plain white t-shirt, plain, unbranded navy/black shorts or joggers and their school jumper as well as trainers for outside sessions)**. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is fully labelled. No jewellery should be worn. If earrings need to stay in, families must provide plasters to cover them. Thank you.



Science

This term, Year 2 will learn about our bodies in our 'Humans and Animals' unit. We will also learn about 'Plants'.

RE and Zippy's Friends



We continue to explore our topic of 'Books' and how we use books in our everyday lives and how they can help us to learn. Children will explore the Bible and its importance in the Christian faith and how the stories included help us to live our lives in the best way possible.

'Zippy's Friends' is a specially designed programme that promotes positive mental health. The children will have the opportunity to discuss how they feel and how they cope with their emotions in different situations. Zippy is a stick insect that is a friend to everyone and helps us develop strategies to cope with our feelings.

School Lunch

As a Healthy School, part of our responsibility is to encourage families to provide healthy packed lunches for their children. As a starting point, please ensure that you do not supply fizzy drinks for your child but choose water or diluted cordial instead. For ideas on what to include as part of a healthy packed lunch, please refer to our school website. All Key Stage 1 children are entitled to a free school lunch and meals that are prepared and served are delicious! Please provide the school office with at least **7 days'** notice if you wish to change. Thank you for supporting us in this matter.

After School Club

We are extremely lucky to have our own After School Club on site, running every day from the end of school until 5pm. The Club is run by members of our school staff and it represents excellent value for money as well as providing a range of stimulating, exciting activities for the children in a familiar environment. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit the school website and speak to a member of the office staff.

Homework

Homework consists of daily reading, spellings and times tables/number skills. Please can you hear your child read daily and write a comment in their reading record at least once per week to let us know how your child is reading at home. Spellings are shared each week for a **challenge on a Wednesday** alongside their weekly times table challenge. Please can you support your child to learn these. This is to help your child consolidate what they have been learning in school and prepare them for their journey into Key Stage 2.

Finally, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to speak with a member of the Year 2 staff; we are accessible via the class email address (year2@stcuthbertsk.org) or, if you'd rather speak to us in person, you are welcome to catch myself or Mrs. Gregson at the door during drop-off and pick-up times. For longer meetings, please make an appointment through the school office.

Mr Bright & Mrs Gregson