



Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back! We are very much looking forward to teaching your children this year and hope we can meet you all over the coming weeks. Ms Watson will be teaching Orange Class this year with her teaching assistant, Miss Pollard. Ms Edwards teaches Purple Class and her teaching assistant is Mrs Whalen. Please bear with us as we learn to match adults to children and faces to names!

On the reverse of this letter is the curriculum information for this term detailing the topics that the children in Year 2 will be learning about. If the children have any books, information or artefacts connected to the topics that they would like to bring to school to share with their class, they are very welcome to do so.

We will focus on a different phonic sound each week, as part of our literacy sessions. Every Friday we will send the children home with a list of words incorporating our 'sound (spelling pattern) of the week' to practice spelling, please help with this. This spelling homework will be collected and tested on the following Friday. There may be, from time to time, additional homework connected to a particular topic that the children are learning about.

In addition to the weekly spelling homework, we do ask that the children *read as often as possible* at home. Please indicate in the home/school reading diary when you have read with your child, as it will help us to assess their progress. Oxford Reading Tree books will be changed once a week and children will also have access to the classroom and school libraries. We will endeavor to hear your child read twice a week in school time. If we can be of any further help throughout the term please do not hesitate to contact us.

The children will take part in PE lessons twice a week (see relevant class notice boards). Children must have their PE kits in school all week in order to account for any last minute changes in the timetable. Plimsoles are vital as many of our sessions will be using gymnastic apparatus in the hall and also exercising outside. Please also be aware that children should not wear jewellery to school and if they have pierced ears, these should be with studs.

Children are invited to bring a toy into school, and we keep an allocated 'toy box' in the cloakroom area. These of course should not be of any great value and ideally, pocket-sized. Every day please provide your child with a labelled water bottle to keep at school.

As I am sure you are aware, the children are not permitted inside the classroom without a teacher present and so we ask that they hold on to their book bags *outside* in the playground with them in the morning. All children need to line up when the bell rings at 8.45 and say goodbye in the playground. Please help to keep foyer areas un-crowded at the beginning and end of the school day.

Mornings are generally very busy times, and if you would like a longer meeting with the teacher, after school is preferable. We are happy to arrange a time at your convenience – this can be done via our teaching assistants if we are unavailable.

Kind regards
Ms Watson
Orange Class Teacher

Miss Edwards
Purple Class Teacher

Year 2 Curriculum Information - Autumn Term 2011 - September to December

Literacy

Story writing Traditional Tale - 'The Magic Paintbrush' by Julia Donaldson

Instruction Writing - 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper

Poetry - 'Patterns on the page'

Comparing fiction and non-fiction texts - 'Wolves' by Emily Gravett

Numeracy

Counting, ordering and partitioning into tens and units; number sequences - odd and evens, counting in twos, fives and tens, writing number sentences, addition and subtraction facts up to 10. Also we will be revising the names and properties of 2D & 3D shapes. Sorting objects into lists and tables. Using balances to compare mass and reading scales. Learning coin values and solving money problems, we will also be learning to tell the time. We will be making links between repeated addition and multiplication.

Science

Health and Growth - Ourselves and our bodies, how parents care for babies and children, eating well and exercising, staying healthy, hygiene, medicine awareness.

Using Electricity - uses of electricity, everyday appliances, mains electricity and safety in the home, making simple battery circuits, investigating conductivity.

ICT

Working with Text and Images - Improving keyboard and computer skills using the exciting multimedia software '2Create'. Learning to create and manipulate images and animation.

Multimedia Book - Using 2Create software to edit and combine text with images, animation and sound, create and link individual pages, produce a final topic-based 'electronic book' based on the Nativity.

History - Term 1

Why do we remember Florence Nightingale? - Identifying famous people in the past and present, learning about Florence Nightingale's life and her contribution to nursing, comparing life now and in the past, handling sources of information to find out about the past

Geography - Term 2

Cooking and Countries - Investigating the food and culture of four different countries, cooking activities, using globes and atlases to locate countries, researching information, postcard writing

Art - Term 1

Magic Paintbrush - (Literacy link) Looking at book illustration, drawing objects and characters, Chinese water colour technique, landscape paintings, imaginative painting using own 'magic paintbrush'.

DT - Term 2

Pop up Christmas Cards - Exploring moving parts in pop-up books, practicing making hinges, slides and moving parts, cutting and folding skills, designing and making a personalized Christmas Card

RE

What the Torah means to Jewish people - Learning about the Torah and Torah scrolls and other religious artefacts. The children will be visiting Middle Street synagogue.

Christmas Story and Performance - Exploring key themes and characters in the nativity story. Drama and role-play.

PE

Games from around the world - Learning a variety of different playground games from countries around the world, including skipping and hopscotch games.

Gym - Using actions and using the space available safely and sensibly. Using hall apparatus and floor mats to practice skills such as climbing, balancing, rolling and traveling in different ways.

PSHE

New Beginnings - Establishing and following class and school rules, recognizing feelings and calm down methods, welcoming others to our class, our strengths and likes. The children will create a 'magical marvelous me' box to share with their class.

Getting on and falling out - (anti-bullying week) Building friendships, discussing feelings, being honest, learning about trust and respect for others, dealing with conflict and disagreements, self esteem.