

Where has the time gone? It's hard to believe that it is the second half of term already and that we will soon be singing Christmas songs! We are both delighted with the way the children have settled into Year 2 and are already seeming so much more grown up than in September.

Maths

We will be continuing our work adding and subtracting as well as introducing work on multiplication. This half term we will focus on the understanding of multiplication and introduce the multiplication challenge after Christmas.

We will also be doing work on measures and handling money.

Lost Property

Please check that all your child's uniform including PE kit and belongings are named so that mislaid items can be returned more easily.

Non named items will be placed in the rectangular box near to the main school door. If you know items are not named please make this the first place to check.

Girls' Hair Please could all the girls whose hair is long enough please wear it tied back from their faces? It makes it easier and less distracting for them when working, is much safer in PE and reduces the chance of head lice moving about.

Reading

Reading remains the single most important skill our children learn during their time as an infant. All children read in school at some point or another during the day and can all change their books every day if needs be. Several children are already on challenge three of the reading challenge for reading at home. Please be sure to colour in a smiley face every day that your child reads at home even if the book they read is not their school reader. Over the page are some tips for discussion with your child after they have read a few pages.

Internet

The children will be starting to use the internet especially for activities to support the curriculum. If you allow them to do so at home there is a link to Google on the school website. You might want to check that the search preferences are set at strict to avoid them coming across things they shouldn't! You might want to check out the website www.thinkuknow.co.uk which gives guidance on safe internet use.

Websites they will be meeting at school are given below but there are many other good sites to use too.

Times table practice Type '*hit the button*' into Google and follow the link

Science work

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

Topic

This half term our science topic will be 'Animals' so we are arranging a visit to the zoo and are hoping for some kind weather at the end of the month. Our story for the first few weeks is the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood. Much of our work will be based around this, and our non-fiction writing later in the term will be about animals.

Discussion Points when reading with your child.

This is not an exhaustive list but offers some ideas to make sure their reading is more meaningful and is focussed on comprehension as well as decoding skills.

- focus on reading just a few pages at a time
- ask your child to explain in their own words what they have just read
- make sure they understand the vocabulary - ask them about words which might be new to them and explain their meaning if necessary
- discuss the characters and how the character might be feeling at a given point in the story
- ask your child to find a word in the text meaning small, big, happy, frightened, kind, wicked etc.
- discuss the punctuation and make sure it is used when reading aloud
- practise voices for different characters

Non fiction books

Sometimes the children say that their parents want them to have a 'proper book' not an information book. That is probably because these books can be a bit more difficult for the children to read but nonetheless, it is important that children read a range of books as they will be assessed using some non-fiction at the end of the year.

When reading non-fiction it is not necessary to read the whole book starting at the beginning and ending at the end.

- flip through the book finding parts which are of most interest
- use the contents to find out what is in the book and which page that topic is on

Discuss

- what your child wants to read about
- the layout of the pages
- the use of headings, sub headings, labels, bold text etc.
- what has been learned through reading the book
- the glossary
- how to look things up in the index