

Spring 2 Newsletter Year 2 – Mrs Torrie and Mrs Rogers



Dear Parents,

We hope that you enjoyed the half term break. Although it is a short half term, we have plenty of exciting things to fit in!

Curriculum

For this half term, we will be enjoying the topic ‘how does your garden grow?’ As part of this topic we will be learning about the history of Kew Gardens and some of the famous people who have worked for or with the gardens.

To link with our topic, we will be designing and making our very own planters using recycled materials. We will be using tin cans and 2 litre plastic bottles to do this so any donations will be gratefully received (any time from Monday 14th March please 😊).

In English, we will be enjoying the story of “Grandad’s Island” by Benji Davies. The children will be using this to help them to write their own adventure stories. They will also be writing non-chronological reports about rainforest creatures. Although the children have been working hard on their presentation this term, we will be continuing to spend time perfecting this. The children will be working hard on their handwriting making sure that each letter is correctly formed and appropriately-sized. Any additional practise at home would be extremely beneficial in helping us to achieve our class target! Examples of cursive letter formation can be found in the back of the communication diary as well as our class page of the website.

In Maths this half term, we will be learning all about fractions as well as revisiting some of our written methods for calculations. It would be a great help to your children to work on counting in steps of 2,5 and 10 at home and to be regularly logging in to doodle maths. The recommended amount for doodle maths is 10 minutes a day – we will celebrate the children who are in the green zone each week and the top doodler will get a certificate each Friday.

In Science, we will be learning all about plants and growing some of our own plants from seeds and bulbs. We will also look at studying plants that already grow around school. If you are able to donate a plant for the

children to look after and study in class this would be greatly appreciated.

Our RSE overview is on the class page of the website so you can see what is being delivered each half term for the year. We will be continuing to deliver the My Happy Mind sessions alongside this.

P.E

Our P.E sessions will be on Monday and Tuesday. All sessions continue to be undertaken outside so please make sure that children have a suitable PE kit in school. Children may not wear any jewellery for P.E and if they have long hair, it should be tied back. Please also send your child in with a water bottle with their name on it.

Reading

We check communication diaries every day so please continue to make a record of when you have read with your child and do let us know how you feel they have achieved including any sounds or words they have found tricky. We are also rewarding children with ‘house points’ for any reading they do at home so your support with this is greatly appreciated. Ideally, children in Year 2 need to spend 20 minutes reading at home every day. This can also include some time discussing their reading or answering questions about it to demonstrate their understanding.

For those children who have moved on to ‘Accelerated Reader’, please do continue to double check that they are reading books suitable for their ZPD range (book level) as this promotes progress. If your child would like to choose books from sources outside of school, please again support them in selecting books within the correct ZPD as this will help them to work on their targeted vocabulary level.

The children who are on Accelerated Reader will complete assessments with the first 2 weeks back and if needed need book levels will be sent home. Children who have moved phonics stage have already been given their new book levels if they moved.

Times Tables/ mental maths

To support with the children’s mental maths skills, please continue to practise their times tables (through TT-Rockstars) and the related division facts. Regular practise with written methods for addition and subtraction of 2-digit number will also support their consolidation. All children in the class also access to Doodle maths which is a fabulous resource for developing mental maths skills so please do encourage them to log on to this as often as possible! The recommended amount of time is 10 minutes daily at home to have the best impact. We will be celebrating the children’s hard work on this at home and school.

Spellings

We have now started to teach the RWI spelling scheme every day once children are secure with their RWI phonics. Alongside this, children in Year 2 are expected to be able to spell the year 1 and 2 common exception words which are listed in the back of the communication diaries. In addition, each child has access to the Spelling Shed website so please do spend some time logging in to this fabulous resource each week at home.

Toys/ items from home

Towards the end of the half term we had a growing number of children bringing toys / teddies in to school. Please do not allow your child to bring them in as we would much rather they stayed safe at home than them being damaged or lost in school.

If you have any questions about your child's learning, please write a note in their communication diary as these are checked every day alternatively you can contact us via the school office or email us on year2@actonceacademy.org.uk.

Kind Regards
Mrs Torrie and Mrs Rogers