**Summer Newsletter – Year 2**

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to the new term! Everyone has settled back into the daily routines and we have begun to revise many concepts through active learning.



**History**

Our topic this half term is our history unit, ‘Florence Nightingale’. The children will develop many skills through this topic and understand how Florence changed the view of nursing and why this is an important piece of British history. The children will explore who Florence was and why she is so famous. They will sequence main events in her life and create a time line to show these.

**Geography**

Later this term, we will explore what life is like on the island of St. Lucia. We will hold a St. Lucian celebration day and begin to understand the differences between our island and the island of St Lucia. Year 2 will be identifying different European countries on the world map and begin to plot and design their own pictoral map linked to the topic. More information about this topic will follow after half term.

**Art &Design**

Year 2 will observe and sketch a historical artefact using a viewfinder using charcoal, pen & ink and watercolour paints. We will also be developing our paint mixing skills by experimenting with adding white and black to create different shades and tones.

**Music**

 We will continue to develop our ocarina skills and follow music notations to perform a melody whilst developing our awareness of timbre and rhythm. Linked to Florence Nightingale, we will experiment playing a range of percussion instruments to create a short piece that has a beginning, middle and end.

**Computing**

Mrs Gregson continues to support Year 2 in their development of skills and understanding. Each **Wednesday**, Mrs Gregson will support the children’s ability to research and find information about Florence Nightingale using key words and websites. Year 2 will also explore specific aspects of programming and predict the results. We are all so excited to get started!

**English**

The children will develop their skills in English through our History topic, ‘Florence Nightingale’. There are three key areas that are focused on:

**Reading:** To use phonic knowledge to sound out and blend new vocabulary to understand new information. The children will develop their reading stamina in order to read longer texts and answer questions about what they have read to show their understanding. Some questions are literal and answers can be found within the text. Other questions require inference skills, where clues are suggested within the text. Children continue to access online reading support through ‘reading Eggs’. This takes place in school each Friday.

**Writing:** To develop letter formation and handwriting stamina so they can write longer pieces of work. Children will become word detectives and identify features of letters, recounts, narratives and character descriptions using exciting vocabulary.

**Grammar, punctuation & spelling:** To apply spelling patterns from Year 1 to date, apply new spelling patterns which are shared in the reading record books, identify and use a range of words such as nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives as well as using capital letters, commas, question and exclamation marks and full stops accurately in sentences. Year 2 are also learning how to read and spell a range of suffixes such as ness, ment, ful and ly.

Spellings will be shared on a Friday to learn for the following **Friday** for a challenge. Please could you support your child with their reading little and often and write a weekly comment in their reading record to let us know how they are doing with their reading at home. Where there is a comment from home, children will receive a greenie …exciting!

**Maths**

During this term the children will continue to explore numbers to 100 and beyond and develop their understanding of their value. They will use practical and written strategies to record calculations to 100, order and sequence a range of numbers using facts such as odd and even numbers and multiples of 10, 5, 3 and 2. Year 2 will also use their knowledge of the four main operations to answer calculations and solve problems about the ‘Famous nurse. This will include revisiting skills and concepts from throughout the year.

**Times Tables** – Each week on a Friday, your child will take part in a times table challenge where they will answer questions about the 10, 5, 3 and 2 x table. These are shared in the maths notebook inside the reading folder. Rock Star challenge has already been set in motion and your child has their own login information to support their speed and knowledge.

**PE**

PE will take place every Wednesday morning with Mrs McMaster and FUNS will take place on a Friday afternoon with Mrs Gregson. Children come to school dressed for PE on these days. For support regarding what to wear for PE please use the link below to our school website.

 <https://www.stcuthbertsk.newcastle.sch.uk/web/school_uniform/175576>



**Science**

Year 2 have finished the Science curriculum so Mrs Roberts will revise key aspects over the next few weeks so children are secure in their knowledge. Mrs Roberts will continue to support Year 2 on a Thursday with their Maths Key Skills and their Reading Comprehension development.



**Religious Education**

Pentecost is the new topic following the ‘Come and See’ scheme. The children will discuss their understanding of how to share good news in their lives, read and talk about ‘The Pentecost Story’ and recount the main events in their own words. Year 2 will develop their awareness of prayer and how to pray in different ways, learn about how Jesus lived and how God would like us to live celebrating Gospel values every day.

**Homework**

Each week, children in Year 2 are expected to read with an adult regularly throughout the week and for an adult to leave a little comment in their reading record to let us know how well they are doing at home. Children have spellings and times tables to learn for a challenge on a Friday. In preparation for Key Stage 2, children who score below half marks have the opportunity to practice during morning break on a Friday.

Accessing ‘Reading Eggs’ and ‘Times Table Rock Stars’ is also part of homework and pupils are expected to log on and complete lessons at least once outside of school. This is monitored by the class teacher and opportunities to practice reading and tables is given on a Friday break time when children have not accessed this learning. If you have concerns due to access to online platforms or devices then please contact me to discuss this and hopefully we can find a solution together.

**Year 2 Standard Assessment Tests**

The children have been working so hard in year 2 this year and have been developing their skills within Reading, Writing, Grammar Punctuation & Spelling and Maths. We will complete the government assessments throughout the month of May and share teacher assessment information in these areas within their end of term report. The children are not aware that they take part in ‘tests’, as it is part of usual classroom practice to work in small groups completing challenges so teachers and children know what they can do well and what they need a little more help with. Well done Year 2!

If you want to discuss any further information regarding the teaching and learning in Year 2, do not hesitate to contact us.

Many thanks,

**Mrs Clarke, Mrs Roberts and Mrs Gregson**

[**https://www.stcuthbertsk.newcastle.sch.uk/web/class\_information/508202**](https://www.stcuthbertsk.newcastle.sch.uk/web/class_information/508202)