



Handale Primary School
West Park Avenue
Loftus
TS13 4RL
Tel: 01287 640416
Headteacher: Mrs H. Blakeley



4th September 2019

Year 2 Newsletter Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parent,

Welcome back!

I hope that you have had a fantastic summer break and your children are looking forward to coming back to school. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children during the transition week before we broke up and it was a pleasure to see so many happy, smiley faces. Year 2 is an extremely important year in your child's education but I can assure you that they will make amazing progress while having lots of fun along the way. Autumn Term has lots to offer and I am more than certain that your child will enjoy learning lots of exciting new things. This year, as you are already aware, I am the only Year 2 teacher and I am joined by Mrs Robinson and Mr Cameron who are working full time as teaching assistants. Both Year 2 classrooms will be used this year to ensure that pupils learn in the best possible way and get the experiences needed to ensure this will happen. One classroom will be used as the teaching classroom and the other classroom is set up as a linked learning room. In the linked learning room, I have created lots of areas for your children to consolidate their learning and work independently on English, Maths and Creative Curriculum activities linked to our weekly learning. If you would like to come and take a look at this area, please come into school.

Autumn Term Topics

Explorer or Pirate?

Topic work this term will focus on our WOW question: 'Explorer or Pirate?'. Our work will centre on our History and Geography theme, learning about different continents and places in the world alongside famous people from the past: Pirate Blackbeard, Christopher Columbus and Captain Cook. In English we will be looking at the story 'The Pirates of Scurvy Island' which is a popular children's book written by the famous Author Johny Duddle. Our science work will involve looking at different living things and habitats. We will be making comparisons between living things under the sea and in our local area.

In DT, we will be looking at designing and evaluating pirate ships, pirate weapons and compasses. Our RE topic work this term will look at stories and we will be making comparisons between different religious beliefs. This work will also link with PSHCE, looking at ways to keep safe, indoors and outdoors.





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In PE this term, the children will have swimming on a Monday afternoon and this session will last for 1 hour. A separate swimming letter has been sent out today also so please make sure you read it carefully and return the slip to school as soon as possible. We will also be completing an hour of PE on a Tuesday afternoon and this will alternate between gymnastics and ball games. Please make sure children have a white top, black shorts and appropriate PE shoes in school every Tuesday.

Reading at home and in school

Separate information will be sent out to give you information about this term's 'Read for the Stars'. It is essential that pupils read at home to an adult at least three times a week and have their reading record signed accordingly. Children will also read weekly to adults in school, both in group sessions and individually. Children change their books weekly and they also have the opportunity to bring home a library book. We don't expect your child to read a book a night, a couple of pages is acceptable and this way your child won't get bored. Last year's reading parties were a huge success and we will be doing the same thing this term so get those weekly reads in!

School Trips

A letter has already been sent out giving you information about our Autumn Term trip. This will be an excellent opportunity for your child to experience what it was like to be an explorer or a real life boat: The Endeavour. If you haven't done so yet, please make sure your letter is returned to school with the money as soon as possible. The children and staff are extremely excited to go and we know we will have a fantastic day.

Homework

Homework in the Autumn Term will involve children learning their spellings, in preparation for their weekly test on a Friday morning, and completing their reading practice three times per week. In addition to this, pupils will receive a piece of Maths homework weekly. We are conscious that we do not wish to overburden our pupils but know that many of you enjoy completing extra activities with your children and we would encourage you to continue to do so – please feel free to carry out your own research about your child's topic. Something like a piece of artwork or a game is always great to share with the class and can add valuable contributions to our curriculum.

If you have any questions, please feel free to come into school and discuss them. Here's to a great first term!

Thank you,

Miss Price

