

7th January 2010

Dear Parents

I am writing to inform you of some of the activities, which will be taking place within Year 2 this term and ways in which you might like to help at home.

Homework – this will continue during the year and will be related to the children's work in the classroom. Your continued help working with your child at home is greatly appreciated and does impact on their marks and confidence. Homework books need to be sent to school every Tuesday and will be brought home on Thursdays.

Reading – As well as listening to your child read the words in their reading books, it is important that they are able to demonstrate a deeper understanding of text and its meaning. Perhaps you could also try some of the following;

- J **Ask your child to retell the story:-**
 - Giving a beginning, middle and end.
 - By giving the main points
 - By telling you either what happened at the beginning, in the middle or at the end.

- J **Ask your child to give an alternative ending or describe what might have happened if a key event hadn't occurred or if something different had happened instead.**

- J **Ask questions that encourage children to think more deeply about the text** e.g. How do you think a character is feeling? Why did something happen? Who could help? What would you do? etc.
Ask questions about what they have read. Get them to show you where they found the answer in the text.

Of course, taking note of punctuation and responding to it, reading with fluency, pace and expression is also very important when reading aloud.

Your comments in reading diaries continue to be much appreciated.

Writing – Any opportunity to write would be helpful

- A Thank You letter
- A shopping list
- A story for a younger member of the family
- A fact sheet about an interest
- A diary
- An imaginative story with a beginning, middle and end.
Emphasis should be on the layout, spacing, punctuation, use of description and neat handwriting.

Maths

Any opportunity to reinforce maths concepts (e.g. handling money, counting in 2's, 5's, 10's, & 3's etc., helping to weigh or measure cooking ingredients.) would be most beneficial.

Ask an addition, subtraction, multiplication or simple division question. Ask them to explain how they worked it out.

Topics will include the theatre visit, Chinese New Year, Artists and Africa. Science work relates to properties of and changes in materials and forces. As part of our Design and Technology project the children will design and make a puppet.

GOLDEN RULES

We are continuing to use the golden rules in school to reinforce positive behaviour. Any child who breaks the rules anywhere in school is given a yellow card as a warning. If the child carries on breaking our rules they are given a red card. This will mean they will lose 1 minute of free golden time. This is to help children to understand the consequences of their actions, and help with general behaviour throughout the school. Below are the Golden Rules:

We are gentle
We do not hurt others

We are kind and helpful
We don't hurt anyone's feelings

We listen
We don't interrupt

We are honest
We don't cover up the truth

We work hard
We don't waste our own or others time

We look after property
We don't waste or damage things

Just a reminder that we do go in to our Woodland regularly and wellies are needed in school. If not already provided, please could you ensure that, especially during this wet and muddy weather, your child has wellies in school.

I hope that this is useful and thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs F Brown
Deputy Headteacher