Year 2

Spring Term - 2

Learning

Through

Stories





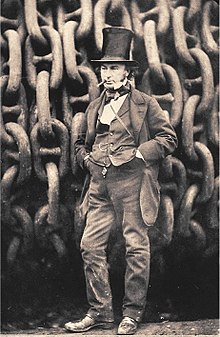
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[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Florence_Nightingale_CDV_by_H_Lenthall.jpg)



Useful Information

Please find some information below that we hope you will find useful.

Topic

[](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Florence_Nightingale_CDV_by_H_Lenthall.jpg)The topic is “Learning through Stories”, with a strong emphasis on History. This will include looking at fiction and non-fiction texts and we are particularly focussing on comparing two historical figures from similar fields, Edith Cavell and Florence Nightingale. We have talked about Jesus as a famous person who taught through story telling. The children will be listening to a variety of parables, including ‘The Prodigal Son’, 'The Good Samaritan' and ‘The Lost Sheep’. We will make links between some of Jesus’ parables and our Golden Rules. We are encouraging the children to do research at home about any of these people and would be delighted if they bring their work into school to share. The classes have already planned, made & evaluated their own puppets following the popular visit by Joe the puppet man. These activities were linked to the subject of Design & Technology. In Geography sessions, we will learn about St David & St Patrick. We will plot cities, rivers, seas & mountains on maps of Wales, Northern & Southern Ireland & we will also produce a detailed key.

English

We will learn the skills required to write a story that will include a detailed character description. This will include using; a beginning, middle & end, writing in the past tense, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions and expanded noun phrases. We shall continue to focus on presentation of writing, spelling, punctuation as well as grammar. The Talk for Writing approach to assist the children with memorising what they want to write, will also be continued.

Maths

We will focus on multiplication and division during this half term. We shall teach the children how to use repeated addition & arrays to help them with their calculations. They will be learning the 2, 5 & 10 times tables. They will also solve a range of related word problems. There will be a continued focus on learning multiples of two, three, five and ten as well as mental recall of number bonds to 20. The children will also complete practical activities and problem solving tasks linked to Money. Please help your child with quick recall of number patterns and sequences. For example – counting forwards and backwards in 2s, 5s and 10s, starting at different numbers. Board games, practical experiences and any help with time and money will also be beneficial.

MC900130271[1]Daily Number Challenge

This activity helps the children to develop their mental maths skills where they quickly learn how to add and subtract pairs of numbers without the aid of counting equipment. The number challenge is proving to be worthwhile as it enables children to develop their numeracy skills and supports their learning within the classroom.

MC900234134[1]Spellings

The spelling routine continues in the same way, new ones will continue to be sent home weekly and tested each Friday. **It is vitally important that their books are returned on a Friday so that your child may write their latest spellings in**. The spellings will follow a pattern of sounds which are linked to our daily taught phonic sessions. Also we ask that the children continue to practise spelling the High Frequency and Tricky Words in their reading diaries. We advise a ‘little and often’ approach to learning them, throughout the week. We are expecting these words to be spelt correctly in any writing they do.

Reading

Children will be heard by the Teacher or Teaching assistant each week. They will also be heard read during weekly Guided Reading sessions. Please try and hear your child read for at least 10 minutes every day, discussing their books with them and also asking appropriate questions about the text to help them to develop comprehension skills.

Phonics

This will continue to be taught daily in Year Two and will be referred to throughout all lessons. During these sessions, children are taught to blend to read and to segment to spell. Please continue to practise the spelling patterns in Phases 2-5, the school website contains all spelling patterns. We have moved on to teaching Phase 6 which focuses on grammar & punctuation, this half term learning will include; homophones & near homophones, plurals & suffixes.

Tricky & High Frequency Words

Each week during Phonics & English lessons, the classes will continue to practise reading & spelling High Frequency and Tricky words including the Year Two Common Exception Words. Please encourage your child to practise the words listed in the front of their Reading Diary.

Home/School Diary

We would like you to continue to complete the Home/School Diary on a daily basis. Please ensure you initial the book when you have heard your child read to enable us to change completed books on Tuesdays and Fridays. The children will not be allowed to change their books unless the diary is signed. **Please also check that your child fills in the “smiley faces”** as this gives us a strong indication of how they feel about their time in school and we can discuss any issues/concerns they might have. Teachers will also sign the diaries. If you have written any notes for us in the communication box please ensure your child shows them to the class teacher/teaching assistant on entry.

Homework

In Year Two, we will continue to issue homework on a fortnightly basis except before a holiday. The timing enables children to work on and extend the homework as appropriate to their needs e.g. little and often over the fortnight or one or two longer sessions. We would now expect at least two pages of homework to be completed each fortnight.We encourage the children to use a range of approaches that might include research on the computer, photographs, diagrams and illustrations. Homework books are given out on a **Thursday** and we expect it to be completed by the second **Wednesday**. Please ensure your child writes in pencil and they present their work carefully. Please also make sure that the spelling of high frequency and tricky words are correct. If for any reason your child is unable to complete the homework set, do come and talk to the teacher or teaching assistant.

P.E.

P.E. lessons currently take place on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays, but may also take place at other times during the week. Please ensure that your child has an appropriate P.E. kit for sessions inside and outside. Also, please check regularly that their plimsolls or trainers fit appropriately. Please ensure that your child has an appropriate PE kit for sessions inside and outside – ALL NAMED, **this should include jogging bottoms or leggings and socks for girls who wear tights as part of their school uniform**, as some lessons take place outside. Boys and girls with long hair should have it tied back on P.E. days and earrings should be removed at home or they should have their own tape to cover earrings themselves before the P.E. lesson.

R.E.

The theme of Easter and its symbolism will be included as part of our work in R.E**.** We learn about Palm Sunday and have a visit by the Rev Sally Moring from St Mary’s Church. We will also be learning about special occasions linked to our focus on Judaism.

P4C

The children will complete a session on the difference between open & closed questions before going on to a discussion based on a chosen question. The classes will continue to use the terms ‘agree’, ‘disagree’ & ‘because’ and the focus will continue to be on developing the skill of persuasion.We will continue to use the Philosopher’s Took Kit to assist with developing ideas and encouraging philosophical thinking during this half term. These skills will help the children to develop their thinking and reasoning skills which they can apply to other areas of learning.

PSHE

The important theme of safety will be revisited during this half term.

We will talk about our school values for this half term – perseverance, reflect & collaborate. The children will set goals for this term and complete activities related to the above mentioned themes. Assemblies and Class Circle Times will be linked to the whole school focus, “Good to be Me”. The Year 2 representatives on The School Council will be meeting to discuss further ways to improve school life, with a focus on how classes can make progress in learning.

Computing

The classes will be exploring how games work and they will be creating a simple program, building on algorithms from last term. They will also create their own simple program using sprites and other animations. We will also continue to emphasise the importance of e-safety.

Music

The children will have weekly music sessions with Mrs Collins, based on listening & responding to high quality recordings of live music. We will also complete some musical appreciation of Handel’s Messiah.

Art

Each class will produce collage or paintings linked to their chosen artist or illustrator in connection with Arts Week.

Events/Activities

All Year Two classes are enjoying take part in the ‘Marathon Kids’ fitness activity first thing every Friday morning, they don’t quite run a mile but they have been managing to jog atleast 6 laps. If they keep it up, it will equate to 13.1miles (half marathon) over the rest of the academic year!

As well as the above mentioned exciting Puppet day & Arts week, Year Two are also looking forward to Enterprise Week which will take place in the week before the Easter holiday.

Additional Information

Please note that there is a wide variety of information on the school website to help you to support your child with learning at home including a book review template should your child like to write about a favourite book that they have been reading at home.

As the cold weather continues, please provide your child with named coats, scarves, hats and gloves.

Your child may choose to bring a bottle of water into class. Please ensure that it is clearly labelled and **only** contains water.

**A polite reminder that holidays will not be authorised during term time and especially during the month of May as this is a very important assessment time in school for Year Two children.**

Finally, please do not hesitate to speak to members of the team if you have any concerns or questions, we are all here to help.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely

The Year Two team.

**Possible Activities To Do:**

The Florence Nightingale Museum, London.

Claydon House, Middle Claydon to see Florence Nightingale artefacts.

BBC Schools website to research Edith Cavell and Florence Nightingale.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/famouspeople/florence_nightingale/>

[http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk](http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk/) to find out about Florence Nightingale