

2HH Class Newsletter

Welcome back to a new school year. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with your children, who I am sure are ready for a fantastic year of learning after the summer break. Mrs Shuja will continue to work with our class, supporting the learning for individuals and small groups every day.

I will be out on the playground at the year 2 line ready to welcome the children back in the morning. Do please come and say hello and introduce yourself if I don't already know you. It really helps me to match parents to children early on in the term.

Checklist for tomorrow. All of it to be named please:

Uniform (including sunhats)

Water proof coat

PE kit

Wellies named (these are stored outside the classroom for children to change into when the ground is wet).

Water bottle

Book bag

Glasses if needed for learning

Inhaler if your child requires one and we do not have one in school for them.

Important notice

Unfortunately, I will be absent from school for a few weeks this term due to having an operation on my leg. A few years ago, I ruptured my achilles tendon in my leg and have been struggling ever since with the movement in my leg as a result of it not healing properly. It was decided that surgery was needed to fix the problem and I have been waiting since pre-covid for an operation. The operation date was set for the end of July earlier this year, but sadly I caught covid a few days before the operation and it was postponed. My new date is this Wednesday, 7th September. After the operation, I will be in a plaster cast for a few weeks while the surgery wounds heal. Once this cast is off, and my mobility is good enough, I will return to school. My aim is to use a lower leg scooter while I am not weight bearing, plus crutches in the classroom.

Although this will disrupt the beginning of our year a little, it is important that I have the surgery and recover ready to return to work and be able to do my job well. It is expected that it will take 12-18 months of recovery and physio to walk and run again. I will explain all of this to the children.

Dr Saunders has arranged for a teacher to cover the class while I am off. Miss Hopkins will be in school on Tuesday to meet the children and have a handover meeting with me in the afternoon. We have done everything possible to make sure that this period of absence is not disruptive to the children. Whilst I anticipate only being off for a few weeks, this of course is subject to a review to ensure I am fit to return to work safely.

While I am off, learning and daily routines will continue as normal. The weekly timetable is on the love of learning page. This will be updated each term and of course will be flexible to allow for whole school events/external visitors etc but the main thing to note is that PE sessions are Thursdays and Fridays. My non-contact time is a Tuesday afternoon. Mrs Bullock, who knows the class well, will be teaching this session and will dismiss the class at the end of the day.

All children need to bring their reading book and reading record in to school every day. They will read daily in school and the expectation is to read at least twice every week at home. We recommend 10 minutes every day to really give children the best opportunities to develop their confidence in reading. I will also read with them. Love of learning work will be set on a Friday to be returned by the following Thursday. This will include spellings to learn for the following week, some reading comprehension and maths. Occasionally I will add an optional extra e.g. science, art or topic work.

Here is an overview of what we will be learning this term.

We are Frome Vale Citizens

This term's value is respect and the learning behaviour is motivation and aspiration. These are covered in class sessions and whole school assemblies. We also cover safeguarding, hold a discussion on the termly debate question and read our No Outsiders book, which this term is The Big Book of Families. This book helps the children to be aware of how their family set up may be the same or different to others' and to be both understanding and respectful of differences. In weekly Jigsaw sessions, the children will be thinking about 'Me in My World'.

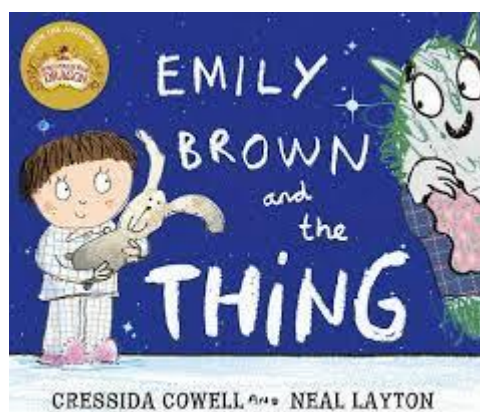
We are mathematicians

The term starts with a revisit of number and place value before moving on to addition and subtraction.

Our maths lessons are a mixture of visual, practical, spoken and written mathematics. Children have opportunities to 'show' their understanding, use it to 'solve' calculations/problems and then 'prove' something using mathematical reasoning and vocabulary.

Each day, we also do a short 'number sense' session which focuses on rapid recall of key number facts using visual aids.

We are writers



Emily Brown finds a 'Thing' crying on her windowsill. It is scared of the dark, scared of 'things' and doesn't know what it is. Emily and her favourite toy rabbit, Stanley, go on adventures to help the Thing with his worries and make everything ok. We will be using this text as a stimulus for a variety of writing tasks such as character and setting descriptions, potion making instructions and their own adapted adventure story to help a Thing.

We will also be writing a factual report about polar bears.

Handwriting, spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be at the heart of our writing sessions. (Year 2 is when we expect the majority of children to start joining their handwriting when they are ready).

We are readers

We have a lovely book corner in our room, lit with fairy lights and covered in a space roof. The children will read their own books with an adult in school. This may be daily, a few times a week, once a week or once a fortnight, depending on the level of support they need. Reading comprehension is taught as a whole class every afternoon apart from book club on Fridays, where the children can choose books from the class shelf, the library, topic related books or dive into our large pile of National Geographic Kids and Aquilla magazines.

We will be reading The Hodgeheg by Dick King Smith which is a lovely way to share in a story each day.

Phonics will continue daily and we will be revising phase 5 phonics sounds with alternative spellings for known sounds. (oi/oy, ow/ou, ur/er, er/ir, or/aw/au, ai/ay/a-eee/ea/e-e/ey, igh/ie/i-e, oa/oe/o-e, oo/ew/ue/u-e(oo), ew/ue/u-e(you))

Spellings will be set each week related to the sound/sounds we have been revising. There will be a phonics meeting for parents in term 1 if you would like to find out more about how we teach phonics and why, plus how you can support your child at home.

We are scientists

We are historians

The Victorian era will be the focus of our history lessons. From daily life, schooling, workhouses and the growth of Bristol, to key people who made an impact to society, we will be



Earth in space. This is always a popular topic with year 2. Firstly, they will learn about the sun as the Earth's source of energy and use torches to explore the impact of the sun's heat and light on different parts of Earth. They will learn about day and night, the phases of the moon, the planets in our solar system and have opportunities to research facts and consider what remains an unknown to scientists. There will be a mixture of scientific knowledge and scientific skills throughout the topic.

examining resources, finding answers to our questions and recognising the contribution of this time in our history both then and in society today.



We are athletes

PE is Thursdays and Fridays.
On a Thursday, we will focus on core PE skills which help develop balance, agility and coordination. Our focus this term is the 'personal' cog. All activities are designed for children to follow physical instructions, persevere when something is tricky and work in a zone of challenge in order to accomplish new skills.
On Fridays, we will develop our skills in striking a ball with a racket or bat. Our focus will be coordination, accuracy and intent so that we can score points in a variety of striking games.

We are artists

Our skill focus this term in art will be 3D art and we will be building up through our sessions to create a 3D sculpture. Our sessions will help the children to analyse and reflect on sculptures, experiment with materials and stages of the process before planning and creating their own work of art. To help keep the stages of the creative process, Art is delivered over the course of one week near the end of the term.

We are linguists

RE and Music Days

Bonjour la class! In French we will be learning to greet each other, ask how the other person is, say how we are and say goodbye. We will learn class room instructions and the core language skills of listening, reading and speaking will be delivered through fun games and role play. Tres bien!

During the term there will be a whole school RE day and a whole school music day. Our focus throughout the school in RE is on special books and people. In our learning about Judaism, we will explore the importance of the 10 commandments to Jews in the time of Abraham and now. In music, we will be learning the 7 core musical elements (structure, tempo, duration, dynamics, pitch, texture and timbre) ready to use these in other music days throughout the year.