**Year Two – Spring Term 2025**

Dear Parents,

The children have settled back into school life well and are in good spirits. Christmas seems a long time ago. Thank you for supporting us with our Christmas production, whether it be helping to practise lines, providing costumes and / or attending the performance. The children worked as a tremendous team, I was very proud of their efforts and it is a privilege to teach the children. Also, many thanks for the gifts given to all of the Year 2 staff – it was very generous.

For the Spring Term, Miss Downing is our teaching assistant each morning along with Thursday and Friday afternoons.

Topic

This half term our driver is life in a village in Zambia (Mugaremeno) and how this compares to our local area. This theme extends to English where we are learning about stories from another culture (mostly African).

Next half term our driver will be learning about the history of seaside towns and the life of Grace Darling.

Over the full term, our science will focus on animals, including humans.

Reading

Miss Downing will continue the routine of changing children’s books on a Monday. Children are encouraged to change their books when they need to. Many children read three times or more a week – well done for enabling this. Little and often usually works well. Please ask questions about the text to check their understanding. Remind them of the importance of being a ‘reading detective’, finding evidence in the text to support their ideas.

In class, we will be focusing on developing our inference skills, identifying reasons and motives for the behaviour of characters. The Vipers character, ‘Izzy Inference’, will feature regularly in our daily guided reading sessions.

Maths

Maths skills will continue to be uploaded each Monday on to Teams. Paper copies will continue to be sent home with children. These are the core skills to consolidate recent learning. I encourage all children to attempt these to help develop their recall, confidence and progress.

Children should now have their Times Table Rock Stars login details. Children can practise their multiplying and dividing skills online. Our unit on multiplication and division is on our curriculum in the next few weeks. Let me know if your child needs their login reprinted. Addition and subtraction skills can be practised (without an account) using ‘Hit the Button’ on the website, Top Marks (topmarks.co.uk).

Beyond this, if you wish to, children can benefit from practising the following skills:

* practise your number bonds for all numbers to 20
* adding and subtracting with a 2-digit and 1-digit number, extending to pairs of 2-digit numbers
* practise counting in steps of 2, 3, 5 and 10 from any number forwards and backwards

Spellings

From the week beginning 13th January, spellings will continue to be uploaded onto Teams each Monday. Children will be assessed on the Wednesday of the following week.

Optinional Home Learning Task

Enrichment grids are being replaced with an optional home learning task. To contrast our learning about Zambia, children might like to do some research about another country around the world.

* Where is it?
* What is it like to live there?
* What similarities and differences does it have compared to the UK?

They might like to present what they learn as a fact file, poster, a video news report or digital presentation (e.g. using 2Publish on Purple Mash). It is wonderful for children to be able to share their learning from outside of school with the rest of the class.

P.E

Our PE days will continue to be Tuesdays (EPC) and Thursdays (with myself). Please ensure children have a fully labelled PE kit including their tracksuits.

Dates

We look forward to our African workshop on Tuesday 21st January and hope you can make it to our class on Friday 31st January.

As always, please do contact me with any questions or queries you may have.

Kind Regards,

Mr S Jones

Year 2 Class Teacher