



Dear Parents/Carers,

4th November 2021

This half term is a busy one in Class 2. Our learning continues in a historical vein as we focus on Bonfire Night and the Gunpowder Plot. The children will learn why Bonfire Night is celebrated on November 5th every year, what happened in 1605 and who were the famous people involved. They will be introduced to the concepts of Protestants and Catholics before we move on to other festivals that take place at this time of year, including Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light and the Christian celebration of Christmas.

In amongst that we will retain a key focus of developing reading, literacy and maths skills and in science we turn our attention to the physical properties of everyday materials and how they impact on our lives, using the traditional story of the Three Little Pigs to think about building choices.

PE sessions will continue to take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit and suitable outdoor footwear on these days. A pair of jogging trousers or leggings and a sweatshirt is ideal as we do try to get outside as much as possible.

Reading and Homework

Reading regularly with your child and enjoying stories together remains an important part of supporting their learning journey and I would like to thank everyone for their involvement in this so far. We shall continue to listen to every child read on a 1:1 basis at least twice a week – more where necessary or the opportunity arises and the children will get the chance to choose and take home a book from the school library every Friday.

We believe our new decodable phonics-based early reading scheme is working well and children should be encouraged to re-read these books where appropriate to develop confidence and fluency and embed word recognition.

Please ensure all books belonging to school are returned promptly and that your child continues to bring in their reading diary and reading books each day.

As our Year Two children move towards becoming independent readers, we shall begin guided reading sessions in school and send home a short reading comprehension task each week for homework. This will be given to your child on a Monday morning and should be returned the following Monday in return for a new one. Year One children will get handwriting practise for homework – to help them remember the writing formation rhymes and develop good writing habits.

Finally, we were delighted to be able to welcome into school this week well-renowned Cumbrian artist Alex Jakob-Whitworth who inspired the children to think about creating art using objects found in our natural environment. The children had great fun hunting for treasure and created some beautiful pieces in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. As part of the Fellfoot Forward project, Alex will return next Tuesday afternoon (November 9th) when we hope to be making some sculptural hangings and creating elfin doors outside. **Please could your child bring in wellies and a suitable coat NEXT TUESDAY to enable us to make the most of the outdoor area. I will send out a reminder on Monday.**

I hope this information is helpful. You can find Class 2 medium term plans on our school website and, if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Helliwell and Mrs McNeil