

# Milton Church of England Primary School



Year 2

Autumn Term 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 2. We are looking forward to a new year with your children and we hope they will have a very happy year with us. We have a fun, busy term ahead of us, as outlined below.



In Maths we will continue to develop number facts and skills learnt in Year One as well as extending and teaching new ones. This term's work will include:

- counting in different steps (2s, 5s, 10s, then 3s and 4s)
- continuing varied sequences by adding on/taking away (e.g.- 4, 9, \_\_, \_\_)
- ordering and comparing numbers, including using the greater than and less than signs
- partitioning numbers into tens and ones
- begin to add and subtract by partitioning rather than counting on
- rounding numbers to the nearest 10
- estimating numbers of objects
- number bonds to 10 and 20
- simple multiplication (2s, 5s and 10s)
- measuring length (in cm and m) and mass (in g)
- telling the time (o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to)
- identifying and sorting simple 2d and 3d shapes

The children will be using ICT within their work frequently this year, therefore we will ensure the children can use and navigate the laptops independently. We will also develop the children's word processing abilities (using capitals, line breaks and spaces), so they are able to enter, edit and save work independently on several programs. The children will be learning how to use a variety of programs on 2Simple which they will use in a range of subjects, e.g.- creating graphs in Maths and Science.

Our main topic this half term is 'Stranded!'. It is a Geography based unit focusing on living on different islands. We first of all look at where we are (Milton) and the island of the British mainland, then we move to a small Scottish island, on which the fictional Katie Morag stories are based, and finally we look at Australia. We use our own knowledge, stories, maps, websites and photos to look at the main physical and human features and ways of life on these different islands, in order to compare and contrast them.



We use topics to link as many of our subjects as possible to make learning more meaningful for the children. In the topic of 'Stranded' much of our reading and writing in Literacy (non-chronological texts, poetry and instructional writing) will be linked to the Katie Morag stories. Our Maths skills of position, direction and movement will also link to maps of islands and our ICT work of learning how to instruct a programmable toy and then create, test and edit a series of instructions will help the children to navigate around the island of Struay. In Art we will be exploring different lines in our environment and how they make up patterns. We will create patterns with different lines using a variety of medium as well as create 3D relief pictures of buildings of Struay. This half term's Science work on learning how to keep healthy will be linked to travelling to Australia many years ago.

Next half term we have a number of mini-topics, our first one will focus on fireworks. Our poetry work in Literacy will be the base for this topic, which will also include artwork and musical compositions which we hope to photograph and record to help us further our ICT skills.

Our next mini-topic is based on materials. We investigate properties of different materials (Science) linking this to our DT unit in which we explore different types and ways of making puppets, after which we will make our own hand puppets. Our instructional writing in Literacy links to making puppets.



Our last topic in the couple of weeks before the end of term will be 'Christmas Around The World'. We will be reading and writing about the festival of Christmas (RE), sharing and finding out about different traditions, making some edible Christmas food (DT), as well as creating Christmas decorations from different cultures(DT). We were very fortunate last year to have a number of parents come in and tell us about Christmas traditions/bring in Christmas food/tell Christmas stories from different cultures around the world which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We will send a letter to you nearer the time, but we would really love some parents to help again if it is possible.

As well as the Science topics already mentioned, we also teach Scientific experimental and investigative skills throughout both half terms and these will include:

- planning an investigation and evaluating the plan afterwards
- exploring fair testing
- making simple observations and comparisons
- recording results in simple tables and bar charts (including on an ICT program)

In PE this half term we will be improving our Games skills, in particular our rolling and aiming and our football skills. After half term the children will be developing their passing and throwing in basketball. We have PE on Monday and Thursday in Year 2. Please ensure all of your child's PE kit is named, including their plimsolls.

In Music we will be exploring pitch using voices and percussion instruments and relating sounds to written symbols. After half term we will also start learning songs and rehearsing for the Christmas play.



In RE we look at the festival of Harvest this month and how and why it is celebrated by Christians. The children will also find out about the Jewish festival of Sukkot. After half term we will be learning about the life and times of Jesus. We visit the village church for a school Christmas service.

Should you wish to find out what we are doing each week, we display a weekly summary of the topics/themes for each subject on the window nearest to Year 2, in front of where Class 5 line up. If you want to further support your child's school work, you might find the following websites useful.

<http://www.mathszone.co.uk/> (KS1)      [http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4\\_11/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/) (all subjects)

Maths or Literacy homework is given to the children every Thursday. This should be completed and returned to school by the following Tuesday. It is also very important that the children regularly practise their reading at home. We aim to change book bags three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, but the children only need to bring their bookbags into school when they are ready to change their book.

Since September 2005 PPA time (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) for staff has become a legal obligation, so each week the children will be taught by another member of staff. In Year 2 we have PPA time on a Thursday, during which Mrs Howes (Class 5) and Mrs Goodchild (Class 6) will teach the children.

If you have any questions or queries or something you would like to discuss regarding your child, please do come and speak to us any day, preferably after school, but of course before school if it's urgent/related to that day.

T. Austin and A. Walker.