

Class 2

The Bliss Charity School



Term 2



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to a very exciting term in Class 2. I hope that you have all had a fantastic time over the short holiday and the children are feeling refreshed. This class newsletter contains lots of information about the next seven weeks in Class 2.

Mrs. Newton



Term 2 Topic: *Toys from the Past*



Class 2 started their topic this term by taking part in the interactive 'Bliss Toy Museum'. The children had the opportunity to see a range of toys from the past and discuss how they were made. The children were able to use their knowledge from the previous science topic ('Materials') to support their ideas during our class discussions. The children then played and interacted with the old toys to gain firsthand experience of growing up in the Victorian era. Some pupils played traditional outdoor games such as hopscotch and snakes and ladders, while others played vintage board games like 'Shut the Box', 'Tipsi' and 'Jack Straws'. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and it was a brilliant start to the topic.

Over the next few weeks the children will continue their study of old toys, focusing on the materials and mechanisms used. They will make observational drawings of the toys and use a range of different materials to add colour. The children will then have the opportunity to design their own toy with moving parts for a specific audience. Once the designs are complete and have been evaluated, the pupils will then be able to build and create their toy! Before the toys are sent home, the children will design and create their own wrapping paper so that the toys are ready to be placed under the Christmas tree.

As the 'Toy Workshop' is very busy at this time of year, the children will be helping the workshop manager by learning how to handle money, using addition to combine the total cost of toys and using subtraction to work out package deals. They will also help the manager with opening times by learning to tell the time themselves. The amount of toys to be produced will also be worked out through several lessons based on data handling. In addition to the topic-linked lessons, in numeracy the children will also practise partitioning, number bonds and recalling the features of 2D and 3D shapes.

During our literacy this term, most of our lessons will have a SPaG focus but will be linked to our 'Toys from the Past' topic. The children will be learning how verbs change according to tense, how words can be contracted through the use of an apostrophe and how sentences can be extended through the use of subordinating and co-ordinating conjunctions. We will also be looking at the spelling of homophones and the use of prefixes and suffixes. In addition to SPaG lessons, the children will also be given the opportunity to create a set of instructions for how to create a simple toy, as well as composing a short story about the day the toys came alive! The children will also get the chance to recreate their short stories as puppet shows using green screen technology.

Our ICT topic 'We are Game Testers' will also be closely linked to our topic. During these lessons the children will begin to understand how algorithms work and begin to use logical thinking to predict the behaviour of simple programs.

Other subjects ...

In addition to our topic-based lessons, there will still be some non-topic-related learning taking place:

- In PE, the children will be strengthening their ball skills in a variety of competitive games.
- During RE lessons this term, the children will continue to learn from the unit 'Books and Stories in Christianity'. The children will look at several stories from the Bible and learn why their message is important to Christians.
- In science, the children will be studying the 'The Human Body'. This unit will cover the human lifecycle and the importance of hygiene, exercise and a healthy diet. The children will also be looking at ways to keep their minds healthy in PSHE.

Class 2 will be learning outside as much as possible, so it is very important that your child has a warm coat and gloves with them every day. The children will be using the outdoor classroom during science lessons to learn about the source of food and the different food groups. Several numeracy lessons will also be taking place outside, including measuring lessons and modelling of different 2D and 3D shapes. In literacy, the outdoor classroom will be used for performance poetry and for sorting word classes. Intervention groups for both numeracy and literacy will be taking place outside daily too.

Helping your child at home ...

All children will continue to be tested on a Monday for spellings and on a Wednesday for 'Snappy Maths'. Results of both will continue to be sent home on a Wednesday. If your child loses their result slip then please come and see us as we keep a record of all of the children's scores.

I am really pleased with the number of children completing their *My Maths* homework each week and the impact this is having on their numeracy work in class. The success of the *My Maths* trial in Class 2 means it is now being rolled out to the rest of the school! If your child has missed a piece of online homework, it is still be available online to complete. If you have any difficulties accessing the homework then please let me know. As always, there will be a lunchtime slot available for your child to complete their homework if you have no access to the internet at home.

The number of children in Class 2 reading at home is very pleasing and it is lovely to see so many children nearly reaching their first certificate. Please note that I am happy for the children to complete their own reading record as long as they are reading to an adult or older child.

Class 2 information ...

The Christmas play this year will be performed by Class 1 and 2 only, while Class R will perform the Nativity in the Church. The children will be performing 'A King is Born' on the 5th December 2017 at 2pm and 6pm. All children will be given a part this week and if costumes are required, parents will be informed as soon as possible.

As part of our topic, the role play area has been set up as a 'Toy Workshop'. As explained earlier, this will provide the children with the opportunity to design and create their own toys. Any clean junk or recyclable waste (without sharp edges) that can be used to create toy models would be most welcome.

As always we really appreciate parent readers so please come and see me if you are able to spare an hour a week. Please note that this does not have to be the same hour every week as we are very flexible.

If you have any questions about your child's education, then please come and see me before or after school any day,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Newton