



Welcome to Topaz Class!

Autumn 2021



term.

The children have had a wonderful start to the school year and I have been very impressed with their strong, positive attitude to learning. Teaching your children last year was a joy and continuing on with them into Year 2 is a privilege. In order for you to support your child at home, here is an outline of the different subject areas taught and the themes that we will be covering within each area this

English

Writing

The children will be looking at a range of fiction and non-fiction texts as well as poetry this term. Key texts that we will be taking inspiration from include; Traction Man by Mini Grey, The Sound Collector by Roger McGough as well as non-fiction books on animals, and newspaper articles and diaries to link with our history topic after half term. Using these key texts, the children will take part in a range of modelled, guided, shared and independent writing activities to support their writing development. We will encourage the children to begin to write longer sentences including conjunctions and a range of descriptive language. We will consolidate what they learnt about simple punctuation last year and build on this so that the children are able to use a wider range of punctuation. Understanding how these different elements of language and punctuation can become their writers' tools to become a more effective writer underpins our Year 2 English curriculum.



Reading, spelling and handwriting

Reading was central to the year 1 curriculum and we build on this in Year 2 where the focus is on developing the children's fluency and expression but will also look at developing their comprehension of what they are reading, and expanding their vocabulary. As well as reading in their phonics group each day and individually to an adult at least once a week the children will have whole class reading lessons which will look in depth at key texts and develop a deeper level of comprehension. In addition to this, the children will have reading comprehension lessons each week. The children will continue to have phonics and handwriting lessons. They will also now have more formalised spelling lessons with a low stakes quiz each week to encourage the children to begin to spell a range of words correctly following spelling patterns that they will learn in school. The common words that are exceptions to the spelling rules learnt in Year 2 are attached at the end of this letter.

Mathematics

Mathematics in the Autumn term of Year 2 focuses mainly on number and calculation. The children will be looking at place value, addition and subtraction as well as money. We will also begin looking at multiplication and division at the end of the Autumn term. You can support your child's mathematics learning at home by:

- Practise counting forwards and backwards by playing games such as Snakes and Ladders.
- Count in 2s, 5s and 10s
- Learn to tell the time, initially to the o'clock and half past, then to the nearest quarter hour and then the nearest five minutes, as this will be a focus later in the year.
- Play card games to develop strategic thinking
- Play with money, looking at the values of coins and how to pay and get change.

In order to help you child at home, here are some of the ways in which addition and subtraction are taught in Year 2:

Addition

Counting on

Add any pair of 2-digit numbers by counting on in tens and then in ones, e.g. $55+37$ as 55 add 30 (85) add 7 (92)

Add 10 and small multiples of 10 to any given 2-digit number, e.g. $76+20$ as 76,86,96 or in one hop $76+20$

Using number facts

Number bonds – knowing all the pairs of numbers which make all the numbers to 12, and pairs with a total of 20

Patterns of known facts, e.g. $6+3=9$, so we know $36+3=39$, $66+3=69$

Bridging ten, e.g. $57+5$ as 57 add 3 then add 2 more

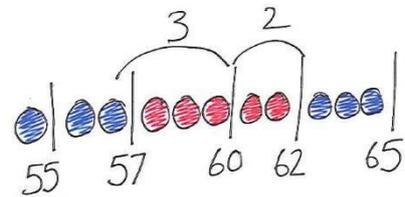
Add three or more single-digit numbers, spotting bonds to 10 or doubles e.g. $6+7+4+2$ as $10+7+2$

Using Place Value

Know 1 more or 10 more than any number, e.g. 1 more than 67 or 10 more than 85

Partitioning, e.g. $55+37$ as $50+30$ and $5+7$ finally combining the two totals: $80+12$

$$\begin{array}{l} \boxed{50} + \boxed{30} = 80 \\ \boxed{5} + \boxed{7} = 12 \\ 80 + 12 = 92 \end{array}$$



Subtraction

Using Place Value

Know 1 less or 10 less than any number, e.g. 1 less than 74 or 10 less than 82

Partitioning, e.g. $55-32$ as $50-30$ and $5-2$ combining the answers $20+3$

$$\begin{array}{l} \boxed{50} - \boxed{30} = 20 \\ \boxed{5} - \boxed{2} = 3 \\ \hline 23 \end{array}$$

Taking away

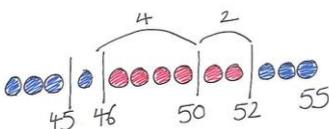
Subtract 10 and small multiples of 10 from any given 2-digit number, e.g. $76-20$ and $76-30$ or in one hop

Count back in ones and tens from any given 2-digit number, e.g. $67-33$ as 67 subtract 30 (37) then count back 3 (34)

Using number facts

Number bonds – knowing all the pairs of numbers which make all the numbers to 12

Subtract a single-digit number from any 2-digit number using number facts, including bridging multiples of 10, e.g. $52-6$ as 52 subtract 2 then subtract 4 more



Counting up

Find the difference between two numbers on a line, e.g. $51-47$

Science

The two science topics covered this term are 'Animals, including Humans' and 'Uses of Everyday Materials'. Within the first science topic, the children will be learning about the basic needs for survival and thinking about how animals, including humans, grow and change from babies to adults. We will also be looking into the importance of exercise, healthy eating and hygiene.

Later on in the term we will be looking at everyday materials and their uses. The children will have plenty of opportunities to sort a range of materials in different ways, according to their properties and compare the suitability of everyday materials through investigations.

Humanities

The first topic this term is 'On Our Doorstep' where the children will be learning about the United Kingdom. We will be studying the characteristics of the four different countries of the UK and their capital cities. The children will be using basic geographical vocabulary such as; coast, hill and mountain.



After half term, the topic is called 'Fire, Fire!' where the children will be learning all about the Great Fire of London. We will be using different sources such as Samuel Pepys' diary entries to find out information about the events of the Great Fire of London.

Art and DT

In the first half term as we are learning about the four countries that make up the U.K. we will be looking at key features of each of these countries to inspire our artwork. For example, silhouette paintings of the London skyline, baking Scottish shortbread and Welsh cakes, and using the natural rock formations of the Giants Causeway to study patterns in nature. After half term, we will be building our own model houses to link with our science and history topics and looking at autumn and winter themed art and design.

Computing

This term the children will be learning about computers and networks and the role that they play in our everyday lives. We will learn about the benefits of technology, but also how to use it safely. The children will begin to develop an understanding of how choices are made when using technology. We will also be looking at digital photography after half term, the children will be learning how to take, edit and change photos digitally.

Specialist teachers

The children will be taught Spanish, Music and P.E. by specialist teachers every week. This will be supported by additional teaching and lessons from the class teacher.

Music

Music will be taught each week, exploring the importance of music around the world as well as learning the key musical skills of listening, composing and performing. The children will also be learning about different composers through our 'Composer of the Fortnight' series and their place in history.

Spanish

Spanish will be taught once a week over the term. The children will be building their cultural awareness of Spain and beginning to learn more about the country. Children will carry out a variety of interactive and fun activities to build their range of Spanish phonics and vocabulary.

Physical Education

Over the term, the children will be taught yoga and mini tennis by a specialist teacher providing them with the opportunity to develop their skills in both sports. Pupils will participate in yoga for half a term and mini tennis for half a term.

Star of the Week

Every week I will be looking for outstanding examples of the school's DARE values and I will be giving out a Star of the Week certificate to a child in the class who has consistently demonstrated one or more of the values throughout the week, this will be done in our whole school celebration assembly on a Friday.



Home Learning

Home Learning will be sent out on a Wednesday and should be handed in by the following Tuesday. Children are expected to read at home for 5-10 minutes every night and to bring their Reading Record to school every day.

Children may have spelling words to learn and there will be a quiz on a Monday at school. They will have a 'look, say, cover, write check' sheet to practise with at home.

I am very much looking forward to sharing a fun and enjoyable learning journey with the children this year and also working in a supportive partnership with you.

Please do not hesitate to come and ask me any questions.

Kind regards,

Miss Kenney



Year 1 and 2

Common Exception Words Mat

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Aa

a
after
again
any
are
ask

Bb

bath
be
beautiful
because
behind
both
break
busy
by

Cc

child
children
Christmas
class
climb
clothes
cold
come
could

Dd

do
door

Ee

even
every
everybody
eye

Ff

fast
father
find
floor
friend
full

Gg

go
gold
grass
great

Hh

half
has
he
here
his
hold
hour
house

Ii

I
improve
is

Kk

kind

Mm

many
me
mind
money
most
move
Mr
Mrs
my

Nn

no

Oo

of
old
once
one
only
our

Pp

parents
pass
past
path
people
plant
poor
pretty
prove
pull
push
put

Ss

said
says
school
she
should
so
some
steak
sugar
sure

Tt

the
there
they
to
today
told

Ww

was
water
we
were
where
who
whole
wild
would

Yy

you
your

ar or ur ow oi ear air ure er

ai ee igh oa oo

ch sh th ng qu

ss ff ll zz

