

Year Two Newsletter

Our driving questions are: *How would life be similar and different if we grew up in Chembakoli, India? And 'How could we, as artists, create a masterpiece inspired by Kandinsky to be enjoyed by others in an art gallery?'*

Achievements from Term 1

Year 2 have come back to school engaged and enthused about their learning. Some highlights from this term include; doing a scavenger hunt around school to teach us about the importance of directions; using our imagination to draw images in chalk that we wished would come to life and of course our fascinating trip to the Tower of London.



Literacy

To start the term we will look at the book 'Pattan's Pumpkin'. We will investigate the book, understanding how the author captures the reader's attention and inferring how characters are feeling in the story. Moving on from this, the children will then be learning a wishing story, based on 'The Snowman' by Raymond Briggs. They will create story maps and use actions to help them remember the order. We will then look at how to make our writing interesting to read with lots of effective description, using adjectives, for example: frozen, cold, icy, and story openers such as 'On a cold winter's night ' and 'One frosty morning'.

Ideas for at home: *Can you have a go at telling someone at home 'The Snowman' story?*

Handwriting - We are having a big push on handwriting and will now be learning to write in the cursive style. Help children by showing them how to form letters correctly, including in their homework books. Have a look here for letter formation help - <https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/samples/cursivem.php>

Numeracy

This term we will be looking at mental and written methods for adding and subtracting any two digit number e.g. $34 + 45$, $43 - 22$.

$$\begin{array}{r} 34 \\ + 45 \\ \hline 79 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 43 \\ - 22 \\ \hline 21 \end{array}$$

Following on from this, we will be looking at money.

Ideas for at home: *Can you learn your ten, two and five-times table? You might even learn your 3's and 4s?*

Have a try on this exciting times tables activity - <https://www.timestables.co.uk/>. You can also use Times Table Rockstar App - login details in your child's homework book!

PE

The children have two PE sessions a week. In PE we will be looking at dance, thinking about how we can use our bodies to express emotion. We will be linking it to our India work and looking at Bollywood dancing. We will also be continuing to look at ball skills and applying these in games, being able to follow rules.

Redwood class has PE lessons on a Wednesday and Thursday. Maple class have PE lessons on Thursday and Friday. We do our best to stick to these days but sometimes they have to change at the last minute. To help us out, please could your child's PE kit be in school all week. At the moment, most lessons are outside so please ensure your child has black tracksuit trousers and a black plain jumper especially as the weather gets colder.

PE kit should be a white t-shirt, black coloured shorts, black tracksuit trousers, black jumper and trainers or plimsolls. Make sure all their kit is labelled with clearly and is kept in a named bag in a box. There will be a lost property basket in the cloakroom

Creative Curriculum

We will be learning all about India and the village of Chembakoli. We will be finding out all about where India is in the world and where the village of Chembakoli is. We will be discovering how life in Chembakoli is similar and different to life for a child in Banbury.

In Science, we will be looking at different materials, their properties and their uses.

In Art this term, we will be looking at different artists: Kandinsky, Klimt, Monet and Bush and we will study the style of art work from these artists and even try and replicate some of their work. We will also be looking at some Indian art linked to Rangoli patterns and henna designs. At the end of the term, we will be having our own art gallery with the work that we have produced.

E-Safety

This term we will be looking at apps and games - recognising which are age appropriate and recognising what information is safe to put online and what is not. We will also discuss how we can keep personal information safe when using the internet.

Reminders and dates

Monday 1st November - children back to school after half term.

Friday 26th November - INSET day (school closed for all pupils)

Friday 17th December - Last day of term - break up for Christmas holidays

Thursday 3rd January - First day back - start of Term 3

Here is a copy of our class text for this term.

The Snowman

Wishing story

One cold but bright morning a small boy called James jumped out of bed. He rushed to the window and peeped outside to see giant snowflakes floating down onto the garden below. Excitedly he hurried outside, grabbing his hat and coat on the way. James knew what to do. He would build the best snowman he could! Carefully he rolled a giant ball for its body and a smaller ball for its head. Finally James added some pebbles for its eyes and a carrot for its nose. What a beautiful snowman he had made! He closed his eyes tightly and made a wish before heading back inside.

Later that day James crept upstairs to bed sleepily. He was looking forward to having more dreams about his snowman. In the middle of the night James woke up with a fright. He put on his nightgown and slippers and crept downstairs. Slowly James opened the door and looked outside to see if his snowman was there. Then he bit his fingers and started to shiver with shock! The snowman's head was moving... IT WAS ALIVE!

Quietly James let the snowman into his big house. They rushed upstairs and stopped... Mum and dad almost woke up! Then the snowman crept up to mum's make up. The snowman slowly put the make up on. Then he put dad's clothes on. James thought he looked silly! The snowman was starting to melt. "I know" said James "Let's go outside." Suddenly the snowman grabbed James's hand, jumped up and they started to fly. I don't like this thought James.

They soared over mountains and fields and spotted boats as small as toy cars in the water far below them. James felt like a bird soaring through the sky and eventually grew to enjoy the journey. They flew over towns full of lights and fields full of sleeping animals. All too soon it was over and they were landed gently back in the garden.

James gave the snowman a wave goodbye and wearily got into bed. When it was nearly morning he jumped out of bed and pushed the door... but the snowman had melted.