

# Year Two Newsletter

**Driving Questions: If I were a ladybird, where would I want to live? and How can we, as Geographers, investigate the differences between Banbury and London?**

## Literacy

We will be kicking off the school year by looking at 'The Bad-tempered Ladybird' by Eric Carle linked to our micro-habitats topic. We will be discussing the character and their actions as well as writing a sorry letter from the ladybird. This term our class text will be an instructions based text, where we will learn a set of instructions to take us to School View Park. We will be exploring the features of instructions and writing our own instructions linked to Paddington Bear.

**Ideas for at home:** Practise your reading and phonics by playing online games on [phonicsplay.co.uk](http://phonicsplay.co.uk), [ictgames.co.uk](http://ictgames.co.uk) or using the app Teach your monster to read.

**Handwriting** – In September, we will be having a big push on handwriting to ensure letters are formed correctly and are the right size and orientation.

## Maths

This term we will be concentrating on consolidating our place value knowledge of numbers up to 100. By doing this, we will be using skills such as: reading and writing numbers, representing numbers, counting forwards and backwards as well as comparing numbers. All of these skills will give us the foundation for the rest of our maths learning in Year 2 as well as further up the school. In addition to this, we will begin to look at our fact families using our number bonds to 20 e.g.  $14+3=17$ ,  $17-3=14$ ,  $3+14=17$ ,  $17-14=3$

**Ideas for at home:** At home, you could practice counting forwards and backwards from any number, you could also try reading and writing numbers that you see over the holidays or around your home. Topmarks also has some great games to help with this <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>

## PE

The children have two PE sessions a week. As PE days can change, to help us out please could the children's PE kits be in school all week. These are placed in boxes above their coat pegs. One session will be outside each week, so please ensure your child has black tracksuit trousers and a black plain jumper especially as the weather gets colder. We will inform you about the days they will be doing P.E when they return in term 1.

**At home:** 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 clearly and is kept in a named bag in a box. Please also ensure jewellery isn't worn on PE days. There will be a lost property basket in the cloakroom.

## Creative Curriculum

Our focus this term will be linked to our topic questions: If I were a ladybird, who would I live with? and How can we as Geographers investigate the differences between Banbury and London? Our afternoons will primarily have a science and geography focus where we will look at different microhabitats and the minibeasts found there. We will then move on to thinking about Banbury where we live and comparing it to London, looking at similarities and differences between them and locating them on a map. We will also be having a focus on mental wellbeing and helping children describe their feelings and strategies to help them.

## E – Safety

Our main focus in computer safety this term is about being safe online, ensuring the children are not talking to people they don't know online and what to do if someone tries to be their friend in a game. We will do work on this in school and discuss different scenarios with the children where they might face this. Please make sure you always monitor what your child is doing online.

## Reminders and dates

**Uniform:** Please make sure that all new uniforms are clearly labelled in case it is misplaced. That way it can be returned to the correct class as soon as it is located. We have a lost property box in the cloakroom if anything does go missing.

**Website:** Remember to check the class pages regularly for newsletters, texts, updates and photos from work in class.

**Homework:** We have sent out a homework project for the term due on September 15th . Please try and complete one or two of the activities on it. We will celebrate their homework and put it on display as part of a class museum. We will also be sending homework home in their homework books, just like in Year 1. However, we will also be using **Seesaw** to share learning with you (like tapestry). You will be given more information about this at the start of term 1.

## Dates

Friday 1st September	Inset Day - school closed to all pupils
Monday 4th September	Inset Day - School closed to all pupils
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Term 1 begins - school open for all pupils
Friday 15th September	Summer Home Learning project/s due in to share
Friday 20th October	End of term 1
Monday 30th October	Term 2 begins

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

### How to get to the park

Are you fed up with always getting lost? Do you just want to have a nice trip to the park with your family? Follow these simple steps to help you find your way without any hassle and get the most out of your visit to the park.

#### What you need:

- A map of the local area
- An adult to go with you

#### Method:

1. First, head North out of school and onto Merton Street.
2. Next, turn right and head East along Merton Street.
3. After that, go North along Thorpe way, until you reach Causeway.
4. At the Causeway, turn right and head East.
5. When you arrive at School View, turn left and head North.
6. Finally, turn left and go West down Old School Place. The park will be straight ahead of you.

A final note:

Enjoy your time at the park, always travel with an adult and don't talk to strangers.