

Reminders:

- Please make sure your child arrives between 8:40 and 8:50 am
- Please remember to leave a message on the absence line if your child is not well enough to come to school.
- All clothing should be clearly named.
- All children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.

Swimming and PE Lessons

- Year 2 are swimming in Term 3. Potter will swim on a Tuesday and Postgate and Picasso on a Thursday.
- Please make sure your child has a one-piece swimsuit and a towel for every session.
- Please ensure your child brings a verruca sock or goggles to swimming if they need it.
- We do PE every week so ensure your child has their named PE kit with them at the start of each week.



The Year 2 Team

Please don't hesitate to speak to us at the end of the day if you have a question/problem. If you have an urgent message for us please tell the staff on the gate as we continue to develop the independence of the children walking into class by themselves. .



Joy Lane Primary School Year 2 Newsletter

Terms 3 & 4

Welcome back! We hope you and your child had a lovely Christmas and are rested ready for 2017. We would like to thank you so much for all the kind gifts and cards.

We have lots of fun ahead of us in our learning. This newsletter will give a brief overview of the learning themes and activities we will be covering in Terms 3 and 4.



This term we are learning about...

Brilliant Britain



We will be learning all about 'Brilliant Britain' this term. We will explore the life of Queen Elizabeth II in History and this will inform much of our writing in English. Through our exploration of 'Brilliant Britain' we will look at the 4 countries that make Britain, their capitals cities and their flags. We will look closely at London and examine some of its key landmarks. To celebrate all of our learning we will be holding a Brilliantly British Gallery which you will receive an invite to attend.



In Term 4 our learning theme is ...

Marvellous Meerkats



During our learning theme of Marvellous Meerkats we will explore Africa and its amazing wildlife. We will study 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett in English and also compile reports on all of the facts we have learnt about meerkats. We will compare the habitats of animals living in Africa to those living in colder climates, in addition to comparing them to our climate. In Geography we will be further developing our map skills by locating continents as well as the countries we located during our 'Brilliant Britain' learning.



Year 2 Learning Themes

Here is an overview of some of the things we will be doing at school in the next two terms:

English:



This term we will be developing our use of the new writing skills we have learnt. We will continue to practise our use of commas in a list, question marks, exclamation marks, as well as ensuring we use full stops correctly. We will be developing the range of word types we use and trying to explore more exciting vocabulary when using adjectives and adverbs. We will develop these skills through a range of writing opportunities such as story writing, report writing and narratives from other cultures.

Mathematics:

We will be continuing to develop a secure understanding of place value (the tens and ones in a number) and apply this to our calculations in addition and subtraction. We will continue to use jottings to support our mental calculation when the numbers become too large to work with in our heads. We will also apply this increased understanding of number to reasoning and problem solving where we have to determine what maths to do ourselves. Don't forget to continue to use your hundred square and number line at home to help you.



Supporting your child at home:

All of our learning in school can be further supported at home. Practising key skills and recalling facts little and often can be done in a fun way by accessing a range of games and apps:

<http://www.ictgames.com/> (for maths and English)

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=40> (SPaG)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z3g4d2p> (English and Maths tabs)

Homework:

Thank you so much for the brilliant model houses for our Great Fire of London recreation—it was fantastic fun! As always, daily reading should be recorded in the yellow reading record and spelling practice in the green spelling book. The homework wheel will consist of a variety of activities linked to every curriculum area. Your child should complete one activity from the wheel each week. We look forward to celebrating your successes within the class! *Please feel free to use your yellow reading record to share any messages and concerns so we are able to get back to you.*

Spellings:

Spellings can be changed on a Tuesday and Friday. Children will practise 8 sets of their given colour and once they are confident in them they will be tested in class. If they can spell the majority of the words independently they will move to the next set. If they need further practice they will have the opportunity to revisit spellings from the previous weeks. We would also ask you to encourage your child to use their spellings in sentences as part of their practice. This shows that they can really apply their learning.

Reading tips!

As you know we encourage reading with your child every day and here are a few tips to help your child progress:

- Please encourage the use of phonics to help your child decode unknown words (but only the unknown ones - they should be developing fluency).
- To support fluency, asking them to read their book a second time should improve your child's sense of flow.
- If your child finds reading tricky, it is okay to take reading in turns to increase their confidence and begin to enjoy the flow of a story.
- Encourage your child to talk about the story and ensure they understand all the vocabulary used.
- Enjoy sharing stories together!!

In addition to this, this term we are really focussing on our comprehension skills. When sharing books with your child it is important to ask lots of questions (what, why, where, who etc.) in order to assess your child's understanding of what they have read.



Some of the stories that we will be exploring at school are: The Queen's Knickers, Emily in London, The Hunter and Meerkat Mail.

Also at home you could explore stories and non-fiction books relating to our learning themes for example books about London, the Queen or Meerkats.