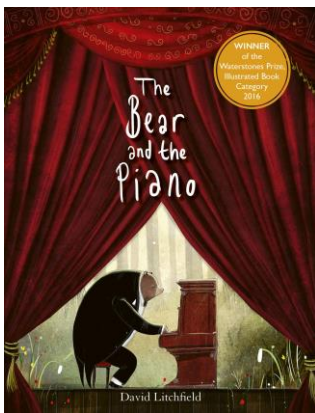


# Year 2 newsletter

## Term 2

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic half term and are feeling well rested. I am looking forward to starting the Christmas term and all the excitement that comes with it!

This term, we will be delivering some of the foundation subjects as part of a blocked curriculum. For example, instead of having one art lesson each week, we will have one week where we have art every afternoon. This will allow the children to become fully immersed in the topic being covered.

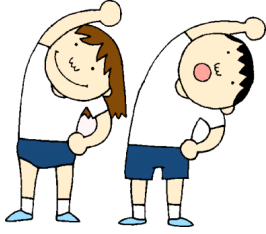


Our English lessons this term will start with a focus on the book 'The Bear and the Piano' by David Litchfield. The children will be writing their own non-chronological report about bears after conducting their own research into them. We will then focus on poetry, looking in particular at list and shape poems. Our grammar lessons will focus on conjunctions (joining words), apostrophes and expanded noun phrases. We will also be reading the story 'The Christmasaurus' by Tom Fletcher as something for the children to just enjoy.

This term, our Maths lessons will focus on subtraction. We will begin by using number lines to help us with counting backwards before drawing our own to help us subtract larger numbers. Once children are secure with this, we will look at the relationship between addition & subtraction, as well as how we can use this to help us with missing number problems. We will then move on to an introduction to fractions. Over the year, the children will be learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables so that they can fluently recall the timestable facts in order and out of order. You can also practise these on Times Tables Rockstars!

Our Science topic for the term is 'Uses of Everyday Materials'. As part of this topic, we will be looking at how and why materials are used in different situations. We will test the suitability of materials in different situations. We will end with a focus on recycling. Within our Working Scientifically lessons, we are going to conduct a variety of experiments to develop our skills in performing simple tests accurately, asking and answering questions about an experiment and recording the findings clearly for others to understand.





This term, our PE lessons will be on a Monday. Each Monday, **the children should come to school in their PE kit, which they will stay in all day.** This will mean that they won't need to get changed in school and will reduce the risk of losing/misplacing clothing or putting on items belonging to others. Please make sure that your child is wearing a suitable PE kit for the weather that day, such as a t-shirt, shorts and trainers for warm and sunny weather, or a tracksuit and trainers for colder weather.

In Computing, we will be looking at the topic 'Computer Art'. We will use the computer program 'Paint' to recreate pointillism pictures, replicate Mondrian art and also produce some computer-style Picasso! After that, we will look at how we can change the shades of colours for effect. Finally, the children will upload a picture of themselves and change the colours to represent them.

In our Art lessons, the children will be looking at the artist Henri Matisse. We will be recreating some of his famous pieces, such as 'The Snail' (see picture), 'The Codomas' and 'The Green Stripe'. We will use collage, regular paints and watercolour paints to complete our masterpieces!



Our History lessons will focus on 'Transport through History'. We will start by creating a timeline to show the development of modes of transport throughout history, starting with the Viking longboat! The children will then learn about the first hot-air balloon flight, the invention of the steam engine, the impact of the railways on Swindon and then end with the first successful aeroplane flight! They will complete a range of activities, such as writing a diary entry on board the first steam engine, creating advertisements for the new railway as well as designing a bike for the future!

Our mascot for this term is the 'Respectful Raven'. The children will learn about the British Value of Respect in addition to following our Jigsaw PSHE scheme of work looking at the unit 'Celebrating Difference'.

In Music, we will be following the Charanga scheme of work, with a focus on the unit 'Ho Ho Ho!'. We will also be practising the songs for our Christmas play!

In RE, our topic is 'How and why do we celebrate special times?'. This will focus on Hannukah and Christmas.

## Reading

Reading is an important part of the curriculum and, as such, we believe that continuing to read with your child daily can improve their reading skills significantly. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you could read with your child as often as possible. This does not have to be your child reading to you, it could include sharing a book and discussing the content, as this helps tremendously with comprehension.



Please continue to use the virtual reading records as they are an excellent tool for both you and I to see how the children are getting on with their reading. If you are struggling to access this, please let me know, as it is very important that your child is reading as often as possible.

Children will continue to receive the following homework weekly:

- Spellings
- Reading
- Times Tables (the 2, 5 and 10 times tables)

In addition to this, there will be optional homework that can be completed in relation to the work we are doing in school. This can be handed in at any time during the term. The following are a list of ideas for your child to choose from:

- Mrs Lambert needs a new coat! Can you test some materials at home to see which would be best for a new coat? It needs to be waterproof and also to keep me warm.
- In school, we are going to be learning about mixing primary colours to make secondary colours. Can you add black or white to these and tell me what happens? Can you create a picture using a variety of shades of one colour?
- In Art, we are going to be looking at an artist called Henri Matisse. Can you find one of his paintings online? You could recreate it with your colours and then get ready to share it with the class, discussing what you like about it and what you found difficult.
- In History, we are looking at transport and how it has changed over the years. What do you think a car might look like in the future? Design your own!
- Can you write your own subtraction word problems for Mrs Lambert to have a go at answering?
- In English, we are researching information about bears and creating reports so people can learn all about them. Can you create a report/fact file all about an animal of your choice?

Remember, if at any time you have any concerns about your child, please feel free to contact the office to make an appointment to see me.

With best wishes,  
Mrs Lambert