



THE PHOENIX SCHOOL

What's happening in Year 2 this half term?
(Half term beginning Monday 19th April 2010)

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you have all enjoyed a happy Spring break. As we enter this busy, third and final term of the academic year, we would like to give you a brief idea of what the Owls will be learning and investigating during the coming few weeks. It seems unbelievable that they are almost ready to leave us here at The Phoenix. We have no doubt that their last term will be as enjoyable as ever!

With the transition to their next school fast approaching, we would be most grateful if you would continue encouraging your child to be as independent as possible. They should now be very comfortable coming upstairs on their own in the mornings and should also be able to hand their homework in by themselves, and inform us if they need to change their reading book. We will of course continue to remind them but it is these small things that will stand them in good stead for their move to Year 3.

Literacy activities will continue to comprise weekly Jolly Grammar sessions and new spellings to practise every Monday, as well as time for shared, guided and individual reading. We will use a range of big book texts to develop the children's understanding of fiction and non-fiction and to focus on sentence and grammatical structure. This half term there will be a particular focus on reading, writing and performing poetry and we would therefore be delighted should your child wish to bring in his/her favourite poem/poetry anthology. There will also be many opportunities for extended and creative writing tasks related to our big books and topic work.

In Numeracy we will be concentrating on the following areas: 'rounding numbers up and down', 'partitioning numbers into thousands, hundreds, tens and units', 'simple fractions involving halves and quarters', 'properties and vocabulary of 2D and 3D shape' and some work on revisiting 'telling the time.' We will also continue to sharpen the children's mental agility with our regular mental maths tests and will ensure that they have regular experience of problem solving activities such as money and word problems.

Science work this half term will focus on 'Plants and Animals in the Local Environment' where the children will investigate, observe, categorise and compare a range of plants and animals that they can find in their

surroundings. Our visit to Golders Hill Park next Tuesday will enable the children to look more closely at a variety of mini beasts, birds, plants and trees. Please complete the attached permission slip and return it to school by Monday 26th April. If any parents/carers would like to accompany us, they would be most welcome. We will be leaving school at 1:00 pm and travelling by public bus to the park. We will be back in time for normal collection at 3:20 pm.

ICT work will be based on the topic of 'Questions and Answers' where the children will look at a variety of ways of presenting information, and then consider the questions and answers that can be drawn from these. They will, for example, learn how to construct and interpret 'branching databases' and 'decision trees' as well as continuing to develop their mouse and keyboard skills.

Geography – this half term we will be learning about Barnaby Bear's travels to Brittany, France and beyond. This will of course complement the language activities we will be doing in our French lessons very nicely and will give the children a real flavour of French life! If you have any books, postcards or souvenirs at home from France that you would be happy to send in, they would be very useful. The children will also continue to have the opportunity to compare their own environment to contrasting localities.

Reports

You will receive a copy of your child's end of year report on Tuesday 6th July, but should you have any questions, queries or concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to come in and see us.

School Inspection

The Phoenix School is due to be inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in the coming months. ISI inspections operate on a short notice basis and the school will be given one week's notice of the start date. Once we have been informed of our date, we will be emailing parents a questionnaire from ISI. We would be extremely grateful if all parents complete this questionnaire as it is an opportunity to share your thoughts about our school.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Sophie Keenlyside and Lucy Toffel
Year Two Form Teachers