

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**What's Happening in Year 2?**  
**First Half of Autumn Term 2010**

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the first full week of school, we would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the main areas of learning your children will be embarking on this half term. We hope you find the following information useful.

Literacy

In Literacy, our big book texts will focus on 'Stories with familiar settings' and 'Encyclopaedias'. Children will be encouraged to develop greater fluency and expression in their reading, and to take more responsibility for selecting their own reading books. They will also experience small group guided reading sessions and have the opportunity to read their work aloud to others. Each class will visit the Junior Branch once a fortnight on a Wednesday where the children will be able to borrow a book to take home from the well stocked 'library boxes.' The children can keep these books for two weeks and change them on their next visit. They will be tested on their spelling words every Monday, and will continue to develop their grammatical awareness through the Jolly Grammar scheme. Comprehension exercises will also take place every week within school. In Year 2, the children are expected to write in cursive script and will continue to develop their joined up handwriting, so please practise at home!

Numeracy

In Numeracy we will be focusing on using different strategies to solve number problems and will develop key skills such as halving and doubling. We will be practising quick recall of number facts including multiplication and division. The children will be counting in 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's and we will continue our work on place value. The children will be adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers, moving on to 3 digit numbers. Work will continue on shape recognition and telling the time as well as estimating

and comparing different measures. Mental maths sessions will take place on a regular basis.

### Geography

In Geography, our topic will focus on the 'Katie Morag' stories as a means of developing the children's understanding of an island home. They will develop their knowledge of geographical features and ideas. The children will learn to express their own views about people, places and environments as well as comparing the imaginary Scottish island to their own locality. The children will have an opportunity to work with atlases and to create their own maps with keys and grid references.

### Science

In Science, our topic for the first half term is electricity. We will be learning about safety rules and making our own circuits. This unit explores the concept of electricity and the essential role it plays in everyday life. It introduces children to the hazards associated with mains electricity. The children will have an opportunity to carry out experimental and investigative work exploring and testing circuits. The children will be making observations and explaining what has been found out.

### ICT

The children will continue to develop their ICT skills during our visits to the Junior Branch and through the use of our bank of laptops in school. This will include word processing and creating pictures and will allow them to access a range of programmes. They will also improve their word processing skills and learn to use different tools to edit their work.

As always, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us with any queries or concerns. We would be grateful if you would come up to the classroom next week to make an appointment time for a Parent-Teacher consultation for the week commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Kind regards,

Sophie Keenlyside and Lucy Toffel  
Year Two Form Teachers