

Year 2 Autumn 2 Newsletter

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to exceed their potential. We actively involve the children in achieving this by holding weekly assemblies with a reward for each class who has 100% attendance. Certificates are awarded termly and yearly for all children who achieve 100%. With these rewards in place, the children wholeheartedly strive to be part of the winning class and the support of each other is a pleasure to see; please support your child and ensure they are regular attenders.

Good attendance is important because: your child needs to be in the academy to be able to learn and achieve; lessons are taught in a sequence and it can be difficult to catch up if a lesson is missed; children need to have relationships with others and to form lasting friendships; it develops a child's confidence to attempt new work and to work alongside others.

Pupil Reward Points

Being in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing!

The reward scheme allows children to earn points for showing 'Green Behaviour' which may consist of trying hard in their work, being courteous and polite (possibly holding a door open), showing respect to others, arriving at school in time for registration and having the correct uniform. Children also earn 5 points if they are picked to celebrate their work in the Thursday 'Star of the Week' assembly. Children additionally earn points through job roles - the wage of points is preparing children for their later life. Children save points and spend them at the academy swap shop.



Writing

Every two weeks, the Penguins and the Ladybirds will be studying a specific text linked to their Topic which will serve as a stimulus to their writing in lessons. This term we will be looking at a variety of texts relating to the monarchy. We will be looking at a range of text types; including narratives, diaries and reports.

There is an additional 30 minute **phonics and handwriting** session four times a week.

We also have a daily **group guided reading** session in which children do a range of activities such as focused work with the teacher, comprehension and phonics tasks. We also have a **whole class reading** session in which children focus on specific reading comprehension skills such as prediction and inference.

Big Writing is part of this pattern and allows the children to produce an independent piece of extended writing, to 'show off' what they know and have learnt.

Your child has a **home reading book**. This book is appropriate for the level your child is secure at and is classed as an 'easy read' to give them confidence and help with their comprehension. We ask for you to write a comment in your child's reading journal based on how they read and find the text. Reading books are changed once a week.



Maths

The Penguins and Ladybirds are learning about multiplication and division. They are getting better at **reasoning** within Maths. This enables the children to explain how they get their answers and explores their investigative skills. It is an essential skill to have! One way to help children use their reasoning skills is within questioning, such as:

- How do you know...?
- How did you solve the problem...?
- Justify your reasoning...
- Do you agree that...?
- Prove how you know...?

We also have weekly arithmetic papers on a Tuesday to test our mental maths knowledge so we recommend plenty of addition, subtraction and times table practise.



Reading

To promote *reading for pleasure*, we have Bug Club.

Bug Club is a fantastic online resource that allows reading to be interactive and exciting. It takes children on a personalised reading journey where the only limits are their imaginations. Not only does it allow children to read a range of books online, but it also delivers comprehension style questioning to promote children's understanding of the books that they have read.



All children should have been provided with usernames and passwords for the website. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you require another copy.

P.E.



Ladybirds lessons are on **Tuesday (outdoor)** and **Thursday (indoor)**

Penguins lessons are on **Tuesday (indoor)** and **Wednesday (outdoor)**



The academy has supplied each child with an indoor P.E. kit.

Please bring trainers and an outdoor PE kit on your child's outdoor PE day. Outdoor PE shoes are essential for the safety of your children. Please see the uniform policy on the website for further details.

Homework

Homework will be set each week.

It will consist of:

- **Maths** - This goes out on a Friday and is to be completed by the following Thursday.
- **Spellings**—These are to be practised in preparation for a weekly spelling test every Friday.
- **Talk Homework** - This will be sent out on a Wednesday in preparation for Friday's Big Write. This encourages children to talk about their writing ideas at home with an adult.
- **Reading**—Each child will have their own reading book, which they will need to practise at home. Children are required to read 4 x a week at home.

Topic

This term our topic will be focussed around the question 'What was it like when the Queen came to the throne in 1953?'



As **GEOGRAPHERS** we will use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of London. We will also name, locate and identify countries within the British Empire.

As **WRITERS** we will be writing a diary entry as a children living in 1953. We will be using a range of punctuation and grammatical features to improve our writing.

As **HISTORIANS** we will be asking and answering questions about the past using objects, evidence, pictures and online sources. We will also be placing key events from the past on a timeline.

Time Table Rockstars

New to this term, all children have been given access to Times Table Rockstars. This is a fun, interactive and creative way that children can learn their times tables at home and at school. This format has very successfully boosted times table recall speed for hundreds of thousands of pupils over the last 7 years in over 4500 schools - both primary and secondary - worldwide. All children have their own Times Table Rockstar login, if not, please see your class teacher who will be happy to give you a copy.

www.ttrockstars.com



Remember to keep up to date with us!

@EPALadybirds @EPAPenguins



The children love having replies and retweets on our twitter accounts. A huge thank you to all of the families and friends that have followed us! Please continue to encourage our children by replying and commenting on our tweets.