



# Year 2

Newsletter to parents

Summer Term, 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break.

Our topic for this term is 'Ola! Brazil!' This focusses all of our 'topic' learning around Brazil- it's geography, animals, habitats, people, language and culture. We will be learning a little of Spanish and Portuguese language too as part of our Modern Foreign Language lessons. It is one of our favourite topics in Year 2 so we hope you and your children enjoy the various learning activities in encompasses as much as we do.



In English this term, we have already made a fantastic start by writing our own versions of Quentin Blake's 'Mrs Armitage on Wheels'. The children developed some very imaginative characters and adaptations to their vehicles, along with particularly humorous endings. Well done! We are now focussing on our grammatical and narrative writing skills in greater detail through the study of 'Mungo and the Spiders from Space' written by Timothy Knapman and Adam Stower. We will be building up towards writing our own endings of the story so, if you wish to read the story at home, please don't reveal what happens at the end!

As Mathematicians, we will be practising our application of all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), particularly in relation to word problems, problem solving and in the contexts of money and measurement. If you would like any information on the methods we are using for these operations, please ask! In a few weeks' time, we will be furthering our understanding of shape and time. Along the way we will also be growing our brains through plenty of mental maths!

In Science this term, we will be considering 'Living things and their habitats'. This will include classification of living and non-living things, recognising the needs of plants, identifying and describing habitats and learning about food chains. All of which links perfectly with our topic Ola! Brazil!

In the wider curriculum, our Computing sessions will help us understand all about messages and communication. In History, we will be exploring the changes in holidays over time, looking at similarities and differences between today and the past, and the use of historical sources in research. Our Geography learning will focus on Brazil and the continent of South America: locating some key geographical features and then using our observational skills to compare an Amazonian village to our local environment. We will be designing making zoo enclosures, fruit salads and a model village as part of our D&T learning, and in Art studying some famous Brazilian artists along with creating some giant sculptures inspired by nature. RE will focus on the theme of 'Questions and Answers' encompassing a variety of questions in life and religion that we may all have different beliefs and answers too. Our PSHE this term will focus upon the importance of being us: 'Good to be Me.' We will be considering different feelings, how we can experience these and how we can cope and/or deal with them.

With the potential for some warmer, kinder weather on the way, in PE we will be participating in tennis, athletics and striking and fielding games, along with some preparation for Sports Day! We also have the excitement of the Year 2 Music Festival to prepare for!

Overall, an exciting and busy term for Year 2!

## HOME LEARNING

Thank you for your continued support with your child's home learning. This will continue to be given each Wednesday, to be returned the following Monday. If it is not back by Monday, we are sure you can appreciate due to the volume of daily marking that we cannot ensure it will be marked. If you are unsure about the activity set, please do not hesitate to ask.

## READING

We hope you have all adjusted to our new approach to reading at Manor Fields. In the upcoming term, your child will continue to read with us in school at least twice a week and changing their own books to read at home. Children will change their books once a week, when they will bring home two shelf books and a library book of their choice. Please continue to share and read additional books at home as this really invaluable. By this stage in the year, the focus of reading is very much on the comprehension and understanding of texts so discussion surrounding any books read is important.

## END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENTS

Thank you to those you who attended our Year 2 Assessment information session on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April. As we are sure you are aware, end of key stage assessments are imminent so please keep up any mental maths, times tables, informal writing or spelling you may be doing at home. It is our expectation that by the end of the year, your child will be secure with their 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10 times tables, and be able to accurately spell the 100 High Frequency Words in the context of all writing. We are preparing your child for the tests they are required to sit, but some extra support at home really cannot hurt.

As mentioned at our information session, children will be sitting tests in Maths, Reading and Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS). These are supported by teacher assessments in Maths, Reading, Writing and Science from work completed throughout the year in normal lesson time. The tests will be carried out this half-term but in a very 'friendly', informal manner. In fact, most children do not realise they are even happening and find the week more fun than usual! We politely ask that you do not tell your children about these tests, but support them in the usual way by providing a good night's sleep along with a drink and breakfast before school each morning.

## GENERAL

PE this term, for 2KW will be Thursday afternoons and swimming on Wednesdays, and for 2SF Wednesday and Thursdays. Please ensure your child has the correct PE kit with them for every session and that each item of clothing is clearly named. It is amazing how much time we spend hunting for lost items that are not named.

As warmer weather approaches, a sun hat would be a sensible addition to children's uniform. Again, please ensure these are named. You may also wish children to wear sun-cream to school, which we suggest is the 'all day long' variety as we are unable to apply sun-cream for children in school.

We are really enjoying working with your children and are excited for another term of learning. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any comments, questions or concerns.

Thank you,

**Miss Field, Mrs Watchorn and Mrs Kerlake**