

# Class 2

*The Bliss Charity School*



## Term 1



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to the start of another school year. Hopefully, you've all had a lovely time over the holidays and the beginning of the new term finds you all well. I hope the children are all excited about their new school year in Class 2 – I know I am! I've planned lots of fun activities to welcome the children back and to ensure that your child has a fantastic year full of enriching experiences.

*Mrs. Anderson*



## Term 1 Topic: *Dungeons and Dragons*



The children in Class 2 are beginning the school year with an exciting topic entitled 'Dungeons and Dragons'. Within this topic, we will delve back in our history to the medieval times. Throughout the topic, the children will cover the key skills and objectives in the National Curriculum for literacy, geography, history, art, DT and science.

During our topic lessons, the children will be learning about the history of castles and the developments and changes in castles over the years. They will learn about the significance of William the Conqueror and how the Bayeux Tapestry illustrates a very important piece of history.

The children will also learn about the different roles within a castle environment, focusing on the exciting and prestigious job of being a knight in particular. In art and DT, the children will have the opportunity to design and make their own castles as well as designing shields for a knight to wear, paying particular importance to the colours and symbols used. During science lessons, the children will be investigating the properties of different materials. They will accomplish this by testing out different materials to create a drawbridge and clothing for a growing knight.

During computing lessons, the children will be designing and then creating their very own animated dragon! They will be using stop-go animation and the program Zu3d to enable their dragon to move.

Our literacy lessons will be linked to the topic. The children will begin with some drama and creative writing on dragons. They will also have the opportunity for creating instructional writing about training dragons, factual writing about becoming a knight, as well as medieval story writing. The children will be linking a lot of their literacy lessons to the fantastic books 'Tell Me a Dragon' and 'Who Will Sing My Puff-a-Bye'.

The topic will culminate in a medieval banquet towards the end of term (date to be confirmed), where the children will be invited to dress up and take part in traditional medieval festivities. On this day, the children will be asked to dress up in a medieval costume, for example a princess, knight or king. Please let us know if you need help finding a costume as we do have a few costumes in class that could be borrowed.

## Other subjects ...

Although PE, music, PSHE, numeracy and RE will be taught separately to the topic lessons, links will obviously be made where appropriate.

PE will return to twice weekly lessons on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Please ensure PE kits are in school on these days.

In RE, the children will be looking at books and stories in Christianity and they will be encouraged to talk about books and stories that are special to them. Could children please bring in a book that is special to them for their first RE lesson next Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September? It could be a story that they really enjoy or a book that has been in the family and been passed down from parents or siblings. We will be having a visit from Rev. Stephen Burrow on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to discuss special books.

In numeracy, the children will develop their use of all four operations and their understanding of place value. They will learn to compare and order number and to complete missing number sentences. We have an outdoor classroom session on a Friday morning and these sessions will be maths focused; we will be playing lots of maths-based games and using practical resources to consolidate learning from within the classroom.

As you may already be aware, the Phonics Screening Test had to be cancelled when the children were in Year 1 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This screening has now been rescheduled to take place later in the autumn. Therefore, there will be a focus on phonics this term and we will have short phonics sessions every day. Some additional resources may be sent home if we feel that your child requires extra support.

## Helping your child at home ...

There are several different ways that parents can support their children at home.

The biggest way you can help is reading with your child every day. Supporting your child by letting them read their levelled school book to you every day and discussing the story is so beneficial and an effective way to help develop their reading skills. Reading journals will be sent home shortly for you to record home reading sessions. Children will receive awards if they read at least five times a week at home. Reading records will be marked every Monday.

In addition to reading, the children will be given a list of individual spellings every Friday to practise at home. The spellings will be tested the following Friday.

The children will take part in a times table quiz on the iPads every Friday. All of the children will start on their two times table. If your child receives a score of 10 or above for two weeks in a row, they will move onto the next times table. It would be great if children could practise their times tables at home. Apps such as 'Hit the Button' and 'Squeebles' are really fun ways for the children to practise and learn their times tables.

A piece of *My Maths* homework will also be set online every Friday. If you have any questions regarding homework, then please contact me via email.

## Class 2 information ...

We have a new Class 2 team member – Marco the teddy!

Each week, a child will get to take Marco home with them. There is a log book for the children to complete about Marco's adventures. The children can either write about what Marco gets up to, take some photos or draw some pictures. Children can use a double page in the log to record Marco's adventures. Marco will be given out on a Friday and could he please be returned to school the following Wednesday so he can have a spa day (a wash through the washing machine!) before his next outing.

Look out for the curriculum presentation that will be shared with you shortly. It will contain more information about the class routines and more information about the curriculum in Year 2.

Please remind your child to bring in a named pair of wellies or outdoor shoes in a carrier bag to stop their school shoes getting muddy during our outdoor classroom session on a Friday morning. These can be left at school.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

Mrs. Anderson