

Class 2

The Bliss Charity School



Term 2



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to a very exciting term in Class 2! I hope that you have all had a fantastic time over the short holiday and the children are feeling refreshed. This class newsletter contains lots of information about what is happening during Term 2 – it's going to be another busy one!

Mrs. Anderson



Term 2 Topic: *Toys from the Past*



Class 2 started their new topic by taking part in a 'Magical Toy Museum' workshop. The children had the opportunity to see a range of toys from the past and discuss how they were made. The children were able to use their knowledge from our previous science topic ('Materials') to support their ideas during discussions. All of the children were then able to play and interact with the old toys and gain a firsthand experience of growing up in the Victorian era. The children learnt about the history of teddy bears and looked at the lives of important people who influenced the toys design such as Roosevelt and Steiff. They then created their own observational drawings of toys from the past and we have created a display in school of their amazingly detailed drawings. The children finished the day by playing with some of the old toys as well as some modern toys and board games. This was a brilliant chance to see how toys have developed over time and discuss the materials that are now used to create toys.

Over the next few weeks, the children will continue their study of old toys, focusing on the materials and mechanisms used. In DT, the children will have the opportunity to design their own car with moving parts. Once the designs are complete and have been evaluated, the children will then be able to build and create their own toy! Before the toys are sent home, the children will design and create their own wrapping paper so that the toys are ready to be placed under the Christmas tree.

The learning loft has been turned into a 'Toy Shop' this term and, as it is very busy at this time of year, the children will be helping the workshop manager by learning how to handle money, using addition to combine the total cost of toys and using subtraction to work out package deals. They will also help the manager with opening times by learning to tell the time themselves. The amount of toys to be produced will also be worked out through several lessons based on data handling too. In addition to the topic-linked numeracy lessons, the children will also practise recalling the features of 2D and 3D shapes and learn how to use directional language.

During our literacy work this term, most lessons will have a SPaG focus but will be linked to our 'Toys from the Past' topic. The children will be learning how verbs change according to tense, how words can be contracted through the use of an apostrophe and how sentences can be extended through the use of subordinating and co-ordinating conjunctions. We will also be looking at the spelling of homophones and the use of prefixes and suffixes. The children will also write instructions for how to create a simple toy, as well as composing a short story about the day the toys came alive!

Our computing topic 'We are Game Testers' will also be closely linked to our topic. During these lessons the children will begin to understand how algorithms work and use logical thinking to predict the behaviour of simple programs.

Other subjects ...

In addition to our topic-based lessons, there will still be some non-topic-related learning taking place:

- In PE, the children will be practising jumping, landing and balancing, whilst concentrating on the social aspects of this subject.
- During RE lessons this term, the children will continue to learn from the unit 'Books and Stories in Christianity'.
- In science, we will be studying 'Ourselves'. This unit will cover the human lifecycle and the importance of hygiene, exercise and a healthy diet. The children will also be looking at ways to keep their minds healthy in PSHE.

Class 2 will be learning outside as much as possible so it is very important that your child has a warm coat and gloves with them every day. The children will be using the outdoor classroom during some science lessons this term to learn about the source of food and the different food groups. Some numeracy lessons will also be taking place outside including modelling different 2D and 3D shapes. In literacy, the outdoor classroom will be used for performance poetry and for sorting word classes.

Helping your child at home ...

All children will continue to be tested on a Friday for spellings and times tables. Results of both will continue to be sent home on a Friday afternoon. As the children are tested for their times tables on an iPad at school, it helps if they also have an opportunity at home to practise typing in numbers on a keypad. Apps such as Squeebles are fantastic tools for children to practise on.

I am really pleased with the number of children completing their My Maths homework each week and the impact this is having on their numeracy work in class. If your child has missed a piece of online homework, then please note that it will be still be available on My Maths for your child to complete.

The number of children in Class 2 reading at home is very pleasing and it is lovely to see so many pupils nearly reaching their first sticker. Reading records will continue to be marked on a Monday morning by Mrs. Eales.

Class 2 information ...

This year, children in Class 1 and Class 2 will be performing 'A King is Born' as the school's Christmas production. All children in Class 2 will be given a part – if costumes are required, parents will be informed next week. Please see a separate letter that has been sent home about tickets for the performances.

For our DT project, each child will need a clean and empty 4-pint carton – please could you send one in with your child after it has been thoroughly washed?

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please contact me via email and I will respond as soon as possible. Please note that I do not pick up emails during school hours. If it is urgent or a message about illness or medicines, then please contact the office.

Mrs. Anderson