

Class 2

The Bliss Charity School



Term 2



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to a very exciting term in Class! 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 the next seven weeks.

Mrs. Newton



Term 2 Topic: *Toys from the Past*



Class 2 started their new topic by taking part in the interactive 'Bliss Toy Museum'. 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 the previous science topic ('Materials') to support their ideas during our class 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 were also given the opportunity to play with some of their favourite modern 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. The children were also able to access 'Santa's Toy Workshop' in the learning loft which they enjoyed immensely.

Over the next few weeks, the children will continue their study of old toys, focusing on the materials and mechanisms used. The children will learn about the history of teddy bears and look at the lives of important people who influenced the toys design such as Roosevelt and Steiff. In addition to our lessons in class, the children will also be taking part in a toy workshop where they will be using drama activities such as role play and tableaux to explore different toys. After the workshop, 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.

As 'Santa's Toy Workshop' 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'. The children will look at several stories from the Bible and learn why their message is important to Christians.
- 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 every Wednesday and will also use it during science lessons this term to learn about the source of food and the different food groups. Several 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 Monday for spellings and times tables. Results of both will continue to be sent home on a Monday afternoon. If your child loses their result slip then please email me as we keep a record of all of the children's results. 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 on online homework, then please note that it will be still be available on My Maths for your child to complete. If you have any difficulties accessing the homework, then please let me know as we will be able to find a time slot for your child to complete their homework.

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 certificate. Please note that I am happy for the children to complete their own reading record as long as they are reading to an adult or older child.

Class 2 information ...

This year, children in Class 1 and Class 2 will be performing 'Prickly Hay' as the school's Christmas production. Due to current restrictions, the performance will be filmed separately and a copy of the finished video will be made available on our school website for you to watch and enjoy as a family. All children in Class 2 will be given a part – if costumes are required, parents will be informed next week.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please contact me via email and I will respond as soon as possible.

Mrs. Newton