

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a healthy, happy and restful Christmas break. We would like to thank you on behalf of all the staff, who work in Year 2 for all the kind, thoughtful gifts that we received.

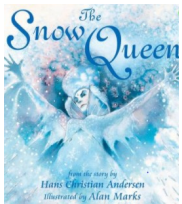
This newsletter contains all the essential information you will need to know for this half term and what to expect from the curriculum.

**Reading:** Book bags should be in school everyday. Please return your child's reading book on Friday's for changing. A reminder that we are following the 3 step reading approach: your child should read their reading book at least 3 times. The first time they read their book it is expected that they will be using their phonic knowledge to read the words. The second time we would expect them to be reading more fluently and beginning to read like a story teller, using intonation and expression. When looking at their book for the third time, the children should practise their comprehension skills, with adults asking questions to gauge the children's understanding.

**Spellings:** Your child will receive a list of all the spellings for this half term. We will be looking at these words during our spelling lessons and ask that at home, children practise reading and spelling these words regularly

**Creative Curriculum:** This term we start an exciting new topic, 'Who was Queen Elizabeth's great-great Grandma?' We will be focussing on Queen Victoria and the Victorian era. Children will discover what life was like for children during the Victorian times and compare this with children's lives today.

**English:** In English we will be studying the traditional language of fairy-tales and the repetitive language used within them. We will then be exploring the book 'The Snow Queen' by the famous author Hans C Anderson. This will be use the text to inspire our own setting description, where we will aim to include adverbs, expanded noun phrases, similes, a range of conjunctions and ambitious vocabulary.



**Maths:** We will be learning written and mental strategies to work out multiplication and division calculations. We will then move on to fractions of numbers and objects. We will also be consolidating place value understanding; ordering and rounding numbers and written methods for subtraction and addition. Children will focus on their learning in different contexts, incorporating problem solving and reasoning.

**DT:** This half term we will be exploring healthy eating and healthy choices. We will be researching and designing our own healthy pizzas and working with Nathan, from the kitchen, to bring our creations to life.



**Science:** In Science, our new topic will be 'Animals including humans.' We will find out about the basic needs of animals for survival and name the male, female and offspring of species. We will also look at the importance of keeping our bodies healthy through exercise and diet.

**Music:** This term we are studying musical toys based upon the nutcracker ballet.

**PSHE:** Our PSHE topic links to our Science and we will explore the question 'What can help us grow and stay healthy?'. As part of this work we will learn that different things help our bodies to be healthy, including food and drink, physical activity, sleep and rest. We will also learn about how eating and drinking too much sugar can affect our health, including dental health. We will also learn, how to be physically active and how much rest and sleep we should have everyday. As well as learning that there are different ways to learn and play and when to take a break from screen-time.

**Computing:** Programming robots. This unit develops learners' understanding of instructions in sequences and the use of logical reasoning to predict outcomes. Learners will use given commands in different orders to investigate how the order affects the outcome. They will also learn about design in programming. They will develop artwork and test it for use in a program. They will design algorithms and then test those algorithms as programs and debug them.

**P.E:** We will be studying dodgeball and basketball.

**R.E:** We will be focusing on the question 'Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?' The children will begin to recognise the words of the Shahadah and understand that it is very important for Muslims. They will realise that Muslims believe in Allah as their one true God. Children will recognise that Shahadah is the most important belief for Muslims and know that it is part of daily prayers.

Best wishes,

Miss Melvin, Mrs Hanson and Mrs Smith