

January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back – the Spring term is here!

Theme:

This term our two topics are 'Rio da Vida – Who put the colours in Brazil?' and 'Bright Lights, Big City – How did London rise from the ashes?'

In '**Rio da Vida**' the children will be using atlases, globes and Google Earth to find out where Brazil is and what it is like, including the rainforests and the animals that live there. They will listen to different Sambas and learn to play the steel drums in Music, and will study the artist Romero Britto and try to emulate his paintings.

In '**Bright lights, Big City**', the children will focus on the UK, and in particular the landmarks of the capital, London. They will use aerial photos to help make maps and plan journeys in Geography, then find out about the Great Fire of London, and its impact on life today.

The main homework in the **second half** of the Spring term will be making a hat or headband at home decorated with the landmarks of London, which the children will parade around the playground at 3pm on Thursday 29th March – the last day of term. Come and watch the parade!

Here are some ideas to get you started, but more information will follow after half term:



PE days

1L – Monday, Thursday

1B – Monday, Thursday

1/2 D – Wednesday, Thursday

2H – Monday, Wednesday

2R – Monday, Friday

Please ensure that all PE kit is clearly named, and that your child has it in school on the correct days.

Home learning:

Reading: We expect you to hear your child read to you at least three times a week, and to record this down in the Reading Record book. When you have signed your child's book three times, they will receive a reading raffle ticket – a chance to enter the class draw to win a book to keep for themselves.

Spellings: Each week your child should bring home a spelling sheet with the spellings to practise and learn. In addition, there is a quiz on 'Purple Mash' on the internet each week to test your child on these spellings.

Maths: Your child has brought home a Maths Passport – please practise one of these mental objectives a few times each week until you feel your child is fluent in their recall. The more easily your child can recall these number facts, the more easily they can apply them to problem solving.

In addition, Year 2 pupils have been given a log in to access Mathletics and Spellodrome to practise the key skills in Maths. Please ask your child's teacher if you have lost your log in; however if you are having problems accessing your child's account then please contact Mathletics directly – their contact details are on the website. **Theme:** Your child will have already brought home the Learning Log for the 'Rio da Vida' topic for this half term. Please help your child to choose one activity from the menu each week and they can bring it in when they have completed it.

Phonics screening check:

The phonics screening check for Year 1 and Year 2s who did not meet the standard last year will take place in June. We have recently carried out a baseline screening check and we are all very proud of the progress the children have been making. Teachers will share the scores with parents at parents' evening.

Year 2 SATs tests information:

There will be a meeting for all parents of Year 2 children on Monday 5th February at 6pm in the school hall, to share information about the end of Key Stage 1 SATS; the format they take; and how you can help your child succeed. The meeting should last about half an hour. More information will follow in a separate letter.

We appreciate all the support you have given us so far this academic year. The Christmas plays, the Great Art Exhibition and the Medieval Dancing and Tower building days were a huge success for Year 1 and 2 and we are grateful to you all for making them so.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to your child's class teacher. Here's to a great Spring term!

Yours sincerely

The Key Stage 1 Team