



## Yellow Class Newsletter - Autumn term 2 2011

Dear Parents

**Welcome back to the Christmas term at Emersons Green. We're looking forward to an exciting time with the Christmas Play and all the other events in December to keep us busy!**

In our Literacy Hour this half term we are reading and writing non-fiction texts. We will be looking at the diary of Samuel Pepys and writing our own eyewitness accounts of the Great Fire of London. We will also be reading and writing instructional texts.

In our Numeracy lessons we will be having daily mental maths activities, followed by work on various maths topics such as multiplication and division, fractions, measures (length) and time. We will also be solving number problems and word problems.

Our Science work this half term is all about **Using Electricity**. We will be learning how electricity is used, the dangers of mains electricity, how to make a circuit and all batteries as safe sources of electricity. If your child has a battery-operated toy, perhaps they could bring it in on Friday for our Science lesson. Thank you.

Our main topic is **History: The Great Fire Of London**. We will be learning about London today and London during Stuart times, finding out the main events of the Great Fire and learning about Samuel Pepys and his diary.

We are having an Arts Day on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November which will focus on colour mixing.

Our PE days are Monday and Wednesday. Please make sure children have the correct kit for these days.

Spelling books are coming home on a Friday and tests are held the following Friday. It would help if children could practise spelling these words every day. They have to **LOOK** at the word, **SAY** the word, **SPELL** the word out loud, **COVER** the word, **WRITE** the word from memory and then **CHECK** the word to make sure it is spelt correctly.

In this booklet you will find some ideas for homework activities, which support the work we are doing in class this term.

Many of the children who have **Milk** (ordered through the dairy) are saying they are not keen to have milk anymore. Please can you check if your child still wants to have milk and if not please cancel it with the dairy directly.

As outlined in the school newsletter our LEAP Awards focus this term is Leadership and Arts. If you could fill in the form sent out with the school newsletter and send it in to school we will update your child's LEAP Award.

Please catch us on the playground or make a note in the Home/School diary if you have any further queries or concerns. Thank you.

If there are any parents that would like to come in and help in class please let us know, your help would be very much appreciated!

*Mr Poole*

*Mrs Sheldrick*

## Homework ideas for Year 2 children

### **Literacy**

Read instructional texts that you see when you are out and about or around your house. Talk about the vocabulary associated with instructions. Share stories and poems with familiar settings, e.g. going to school, the park, days out. Talk about the characters and setting. After reading try to retell the story from memory thinking about what happened first, next, then, after that, finally....

Practise reading aloud to prepare children for the Christmas Play. Many will have parts where they are required to speak and will need to have clear, steady voices.

Review spellings from the Autumn term in Year 2 and continue looking at 'tricky words' for Year 2.

### **Numeracy**

In class the children will be using place value cards, a 100 square, 10p and 1p coins and Tens and Unit boards. These are all very useful and could be used at home. If you would like copies please ask us.

**We will be looking at place value.** Use 10p and 1p coins to make different amounts of money. Using only these coins helps with understanding tens and units - how many "tens" and how many "ones" are in a number. Start with numbers below 100p/ £1.00. You can then extend this up to £10.00 to include "hundreds" using only £1.00, 10p and 1p coins. Relate this to place value cards, a 100 square and Tens and Unit boards.

**We will be looking at adding and subtracting tens and ones from two-digit and three-digit numbers.** Use 10p and 1p coins to make numbers and then add 10p or multiples of 10p. What happens to the ones? Use this same method to add two two-digit numbers (make sure the total is below 100p/ £1.00 - how many tens and how many ones are there all together? Relate this to place value cards, a 100 square and Tens and Unit boards.

**We will then begin using a blank number line to help us solve addition and subtraction calculations.**

### **Science**

Look around your house. Find and list everyday appliances that use electricity, including things which light up, heat up, make sounds, move, etc. Do they use mains electricity or batteries? Sort the things you find into 2 groups. Make a poster to warn others of the dangers of mains electricity.