



Dear Parents and Carers of Ladybird Class

4th January 2024

Welcome back after the end of term Christmas holiday. Thank you so much for all the Christmas cards and gifts which we received. I hope that you are all well rested and looking forward to a busy term.

ENGLISH: will include writing a journey story linked to our Kenyan topic. This term's author is: Atinuke.

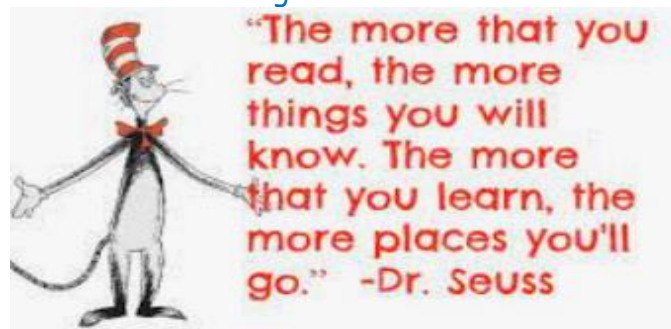
We will also be challenging you and your child to a fairy tale reading challenge (more details to follow).

SPELLING AND PHONICS: please encourage your child to learn the spelling words for the week, for a few minutes each day. We practice during our spelling and phonics sessions daily, but support from home is important too.

HOMEREADERS: I am including a reminder as to how Home Readers work in Year 2. We have been asking the children how often they read at home and quite a few say only once or twice a week. The Books are changed once a week on a Monday and include: a decodable book as well as a 'Reading for Pleasure' book chosen by the child. Parents/carers are encouraged to listen to their child read the same book daily to develop true fluency as well as understanding and comprehension of the text. Books are kept in book bags so teaching staff can monitor reading progress. The Reading for Pleasure books are to encourage enjoyment of reading.

It is also important to spend time talking about what the story or non-fiction book is about. Parents Reading Support is available if on this link:

Please could you ensure that both books are returned each Monday morning so that we can exchange your child's book ready for the new week - Together we can ensure that our children become readers.



MATHS: Learning our times tables (2, 5 and 10) off by heart as well as counting on and back in steps of 2, 5 and 10 is one of our aims this term. It is important that we master the 5 times table as counting in fives is vital when learning the time. Understanding times of the day is important i.e. the order of the day, what comes before or after lunch, or school or tea or bath time etc.

NUMBOTS - please encourage your child to spend **10 minutes a day** on Numbots, the importance of daily practicing of basic maths skills cannot be overemphasised. Each maths group does get a go at Numbots using ipads each week.

SCIENCE: Our Science focus is plants in our local environment: If you do have anything of interest please could your child bring it in for the display table. We also focus on being scientists and scientists: ask questions, enquire, explore, conclusions etc.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: we will be completing our Wind Up Mechanisms so if you have not yet sent in a shoebox or similar size box please do so as soon as possible. If you do have more than one, we will gratefully receive them.

ART: We will be exploring African mask making, facial expressions which link to both our [artist this term is: Georges Seurat](#)

PSHE: we will continue using the resource JIGSAW with the theme 'Dreams and Goals'.

GEOGRAPHY: We will explore the world's continents and oceans and Kenya is our topic for the first half of the term. We will be exploring and comparing a variety of areas of Kenyan life, food etc. and finding both differences and similarities to our own environment in the UK.

FRENCH: We will link our geography topic to visiting Paris with the character Barnaby Bear and learn a range of colours, fruit and vegetables in a song.

CLASS DOJO: this has been an invaluable form of communication for both teachers and parents/carers and we will continue to use Class Dojo. (if you get any messages to upgrade your status etc please ignore them)

SHOW AND TELL (Friday): This first week back: is either a photo or actual favourite Christmas present! Going forward the theme this half term will be any items, pictures or interesting facts you have about Kenya and Africa. We would love to add these to our display and borrow them for this half term.

Show and Tell is on Friday afternoon and includes items of interest linked to our topic work Science/DT/ History - NO toys - please link show and tell to the topic work.	
Week 1	Rowan, Aylsa, Teddy, Fayth
Week 2	George, Miley, Teagan, Erin
Week 3	Billy, Aidan, Harper, Samson
Week 4	Koen, Ella, Logan, Finlay, Arbie
Week 5	Dylan, Maisie, Rose, Elliott
Week 6	Theo, Ayla, Megan
Week 1 (carried over to next half term)	Raffi, Isabelle, Harriet

We are looking forward to a half term of both enrichment and learning, please contact me with any queries or concerns we are a team ensuring your child has a fantastic, exciting and inspiring learning experience.

Best Wishes

Mrs Gibb and Ladybird class team