



Yellow Class News

Autumn 2018



Welcome back to school, I hope everyone had a lovely summer. This term Yellow Class will be learning about Africa. We will find out about the amazing animals of the savannah, share traditional African stories and songs and try African dancing and drumming. Initially we will focus on The Gambia as this is the setting for our English text, 'Fatou fetch the water'. Later in the term we will study Kenya and compare Kenyan villages with Coppleshill. We will also find out about school life in Kenya and see what is the same or different from our schooling.

Previously, our home learning has been a range of creative challenges which could be chosen from a list. This year I will still provide these activity suggestions. However, they will be an optional extra to try if your child wants to explore their learning further, or for when you have a rainy Sunday afternoon to fill.

This year our home learning will focus on the basics, building solid foundations for the rest of the children's learning. These are the expectations in Year 2:

Reading

I expect every child to read to an adult or older sibling at least 3 times a week, but please read more if you can. I check the children's reading diaries every week and if there are 3 or more entries from home reading they earn a point on their reward card. Obviously, the amount that they have read will vary dependent on the child and the length of their book. So, it won't necessarily be 3 books, just 3 quality reading sessions including some discussion about the book too.

Times Tables

We are using a trial version of Times Tables Rock Star which will hopefully get children excited about learning their times tables. It is web based and you can also get an app which will be free with our subscription. We are trialling it until October, so your feedback would be great. It is a collection of games and challenges to help the children remember their tables facts. We will also be practising our tables in school. Every Wednesday the children will complete a 'Big Maths' quiz against the clock. Their aim is to improve their score as the weeks go on, any practice of the 2, 5 or 10 times tables would be a brilliant help with this.

Spelling

Spellings need to be part of their weekly routine for home learning. The children are not learning words for a specific test, as we don't want the children to become stressed about spellings, however, they need to learn the words to use in their writing.

This term the children will receive a list of five words each week which will link to the spelling rules I am teaching in class. This will mean that I can look out for those words in the children's class writing and praise correct spelling of them, when used in context. As we go through the year, spelling homework will become more personalised to the child and will include words that I notice them misspelling in their writing and words that they choose to work on from a given list. We will learn lots of different ways to practise spellings to help the children to develop their preferred way of remembering them.

Some ideas for rainy Sundays:

<p>Visit a museum and see what African artefacts you can find. You could sketch, list or take photos of what you find. Remember to check what it is and which part of Africa it is from, so that you can tell us about it.</p>	<p>Design and make your own African musical instrument. Research traditional African instruments, decide which you could make a version of, draw your design and make it. If it works, you can play it for us in class.</p>	<p>Ask an adult to help you cook a Kenyan dish from this web site. Remember to take lots of photos of you making it and then try it. What do you think? http://migrationology.com/2011/06/kenyan-food-overview-20-of-kenyas-best-dishes/</p>	<p>Create a painting or collage picture of the African Savannah, try to include some of the animals or maybe the Masai tribes people.</p>
<p>Design and make something African, it could be jewellery, a model of an animal, a mask, an African scene or a map. Remember that there is lots of variety across the continent of Africa.</p>	<p>Create a fact file about an African animal. Can you find out lots of statistics about your animal, such as how tall they can be, what they may weigh or how many of their species are living in the wild?</p>	<p>Continent challenge Can you label a map of Africa to show all the different countries? How many are there? It's a big challenge, use an atlas to help you.</p>	<p>Be inspired – what has caught your interest during our learning about Africa? Could you find out more about it, extend your learning and share what you discover with the class?</p>

