

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and that the children are fully rested ready for a remarkably busy half term.

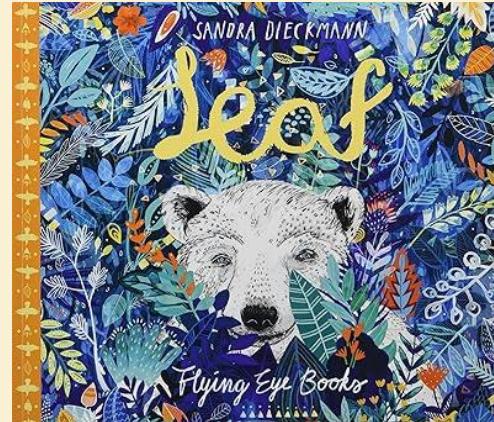
Key Dates:

5th January INSET day
6th January School Re-opens and The Big Planet Promise Day
15th January Single Use Plastic day
16th Sustainability Heaton's assembly (Bats in the Heatons)
23rd-25th January Big Garden Bird Watch
29th January Switch Off Day
2nd February Walk to School Week
4th February Switch off Day and Eco Fair
13th February Last day before we close for half term
23rd February School Re-opens

Computing: The focus this half term will be data handling. To support us with this we will be using 2Question in Purplemash. This unit is designed to help children learn about the importance of phrasing questions and that certain data-handling resources are limited in the answers they can provide.

PSHE: Are key questions this term are:
What does it mean to belong?
What are my rights and why are they important?
How can everyone be included?
What makes you unique?
How can we access the internet safely?

Home Sweet Home



Supporting your child at home:

Thank you for your ongoing support with your child's learning at home. Please read regularly with your child each week, focussing not only on fluency, but comprehension skills as well. The comprehension question starters bookmark should be used to help you formulate your questions whilst they are reading. Weekly spellings to practise at home will be sent out each Friday, and there will be a written check the following Friday. This will help the children to learn the Year 2 spelling rules. For Maths, please ensure that they are practising rapid recall of number bonds up to 10 and then 20. This will help them with their weekly Minute Maths checks.

Creative Curriculum: This half term we will use the book Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann as the basis of our learning about living things and their habitats. We will develop our geography skills in identifying the equator, continents, oceans, and climate zones, then find out about animals and plants that live both in the UK and in global locations, using our Forest School area to explore microhabitats. As scientists, we will also consider how living things are adapted to their environment, and how they depend on each other within a habitat. In Design and Technology, we will evaluate children's books with moving parts, before creating our own animal habitat moving picture, based on Leaf.

English: This term, our writing will be description, based on our book Leaf. The children will use DEAL and reading to explore vocabulary, then write their own setting and character descriptions. There will be a focus on sentence composition, grammar, and punctuation, as well as spelling. Most children will now be focusing on written comprehension skills during guided reading sessions. Some children will now begin or have begun to read Little Wandle chapter books which will not be sent home. Spelling practise will take place 4 times a week, building on the phonics-based learning to introduce Year 2 spelling rules. There will also be daily handwriting practise.

Maths: The focus this half term is multiplication and division. The children will be introduced to multiplication as adding equal groups and to division by grouping and sharing. By the end of the half term, they should be confident multiplying and dividing by 2, 5 and 10. On Mondays, the children will develop their understanding of length and height. Throughout, we will use manipulatives and reasoning tasks that allow the children to explain their mathematical thinking.



Music: In music we will be carrying out the 'Playing and Performing' Unit. In this unit pupils will be taught the first notes on the glockenspiel. They will be learning about pitch (high low) and dynamics (loud quiet), using these to improve performance. They will learn to compose and notate melodies. This unit concludes with the pupils performing and evaluating a composition.

PE: Indoor PE will take place on a Friday, with a focus on gymnastics. Outdoor Games sessions with the coaches will be on Mondays. Please make sure your child has the correct kit on those dates, including warm clothes for outdoors, and that it is all clearly labelled.

RE: This half term we will be looking at sacred books including the Quran and Torah. We will learn that sacred texts contain stories which are special to many people and should be treated with respect, as well as retelling stories from them.