11th January 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new term. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a happy New Year! We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of what we will be doing this term in Year 2.

**Down Under**
Our topic for the first half of the term will be “Down Under”. The children have received a video message from Barnaby Bear asking for their help! He is going to be visiting Australia and would like to know where he should go, what he should see, what the weather will be like and what he should pack. The children will be finding out the answers to all of these questions by researching the answers in a variety of ways. They will be investigating Aboriginal art and creating their own picture.

**Grand Designs**
For the second half of the term our topic will be ‘Grand Designs’. This is based around traditional tales, particularly ‘Little Red Riding Hood’. We will be learning to write our own traditional tale and how to design and make puppets and a new house for Grandma! We will also be involved in the Chelmsford Infant Music Festival. Please be aware that numbers are limited for this event so children’s names will be picked out of a hat. You will receive more information about this nearer the time.

**Pen Licences**
This term, we will continue to give ‘pen licences’. These are for children who consistently use neat, joined up writing. They will be able to start writing in pen. The pens will be provided. Please encourage your child to concentrate on their handwriting!

**Homework**
Homework will be on DBprimary every Friday as usual. Please hand it in on the following Thursday. Please continue to support your child using Mathletics.

**Times Table Challenge**
In Year 2 the children are taught the 1, 2, 5 and 10 times tables and corresponding division facts. They will have their own ‘Times Table Challenge’ booklet which will be kept in school. They will focus on learning one times table at a time, e.g. 2 times table. Children will be tested for each level when they are ready. The levels are as follows:
- Bronze award- reciting in order
- Silver award- recalling facts out of order
- Gold award- recalling division facts
- Platinum award- answering related word problems
Please support your child by practising these regularly at home so that children learn them off by heart.
**General Reminders:**

- **Reading books** – It is your child’s responsibility to ensure that they change their book regularly. Adults will continue to assess reading bands.
- **Personal equipment/clothing** – Please ensure that ALL of your children’s belongings are named with a name label or permanent marker.
- **Swimming (Mrs Dubiel’s class only)** – Swimming lessons will be every Tuesday. Your child will need a swimming costume/trunks, a towel and a swimming hat. Children can take goggles to their lesson, however these are not essential.
- **Miss Maslen’s class** will be having indoor PE lessons on Tuesday and outdoor lessons on Wednesdays. Mrs. Dubiel’s class will have indoor PE on Tuesdays. The children need to bring trainers in for the outdoor session.
- **Painting aprons** – There are still a number of children who do not have their own painting apron in school. Please provide your child with a suitable named apron.

We would like to thank you for your continued support. You are always welcome to pop in after school if you ever have any queries.

Many thanks,

Mrs Dubiel          Miss Maslen