



Welcome to

# PENGUINS

September 2011



Dear Parents,

We welcome both you and your children to Year two and look forward to our year together with many exciting learning experiences planned. Should you have any questions don't hesitate to pop in and if not immediately convenient, we are always happy to arrange a time. If you wish to see the children's learning environment again you are welcome, however it may be best to wait a week or two as the children settle in and make the classroom their own. Mrs Hiller will teach the children on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning, and Mrs Beecroft on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday.

We plan to grab and hold onto the children's *holiday* enthusiasm for a little longer as we begin this term with a new IPC topic called "Hooray, Let's go on Holiday!". Drawing on the children's experiences from the summer, they will be helping to create areas within the classroom including their role-play corner and will also be using their experiences to develop their knowledge and understanding of travel and the world. As this theme has a strong personal element to it, weekly home tasks will be set to provide you with an insight into your child's learning and an opportunity for you to consolidate (*'cement'*) skills used. Your support with the completion of weekly home tasks is very important, so please read on to find out how you can help.....

## Literacy



Reading should be fun and enjoyed by all, regardless of ability! In Year 2 the children will continue to enjoy a range of reading experiences including reading individually, in pairs, in groups, and as a whole class. They will read for information, instruction or recreation. The children will be focusing on some traditional tales this term and reading stories by significant authors. We will have 'An Author of the month' so children might like to bring in books borrowed from the library or books from their own collections to share. We will explore some poetry and be using a range of information texts in support of our class topic. The Penguins obviously have an appetite for writing, which we are very excited about, so the weekly Big Write will allow children to write in response to different genres or interests. There will be strong writing links with our IPC topic and children will be taught to write using a joined, fluent style of handwriting (an example of which, we will happily send home). We would also like to provide greater opportunities for the Penguins to 'talk' and develop their speaking and listening skills. With plans to timetable '**Five minutes of Fame**', a 'big hit' with the children last year, we will invite pupils to share a short, prepared presentation about a topic of interest to them. We will write to you soon with more information, *so please watch this space!*

Maths is integral to our daily experiences and this is celebrated in year 2. The children are given daily opportunities to use their skills in 'real life' situations whether it is as simple as collecting and sorting the dinner totals into tables and charts, finding out how many by counting with speed and accuracy in 10s, 2s and 5s or discussing how to solve more difficult problems. Classroom areas such as the maths and role play areas have strong mathematical links where the children have the opportunity to use and develop the skills taught. We will be placing a strong emphasis on providing opportunities to talk. Not only will this mean children are using the correct mathematical language but it will help them to talk through and explain their understanding whilst sharing their methods and reasons with others.

## Numeracy



## Science

As the children begin to encounter journeys to far off places they will also step onto the



science express. As they travel, they will learn how to do so safely and healthily, recognising the need for protection against the sun and how to stay well in different climates and conditions. They will have some investigative fun as they explore the advantages of travel hand wash over soap and explore whether it is more effective and why! The buffet cart will display food from different countries but highlight the variety of food eaten in this country and how a sensible, varied diet can help. Finally, as they settle back and take time to look at all they have passed (learnt!) they will spot how the science express will not only take them on a journey, showing how they have changed and will continue to do so, but it will take them in the healthy, right direction!

Your help will be sought in this area of the curriculum this half term as the children learn about the past by looking at their own lives and those of their family. As they travel back in time they will learn to recognise the different sources of information available to them as they plan questions to ask members of their family, look at photographs and explore objects. This will provide lots of great ICT opportunities. And what better way to learn about them than to use them when needed, especially when they can 'see' the immediate

### History



### ICT

benefits of ease and time saving (!) Not only will they learn the value of ICT but how different equipment can be used to help them plan, collect, sort and present what they have learnt. Having become time detectives, they will then compare the information they have gathered with that of their own holidays to identify differences.

*We will be creating a museum area where items from family holidays taken by parents and grandparents as children will be displayed. Should you have any objects (i.e. old suitcases, cameras, clothing etc) please could we borrow them? Don't worry...a key aspect of their learning will be the importance of showing these items respect and the need to treasure them to keep the past alive. They will be looked after and if need be not handled. Please pass them to us ASAP.*

### Geography



In order to participate in the initial tasks the children will require a photograph or postcard from their favourite holiday place. They will be asked to talk about this holiday so any help you can give to them in preparation would be beneficial to them (e.g. name of place, weather, type of accommodation, activities/experiences). They will be using a range of resources in lessons including maps, globes, atlases and travel brochures (your assistance in gathering holiday brochures would be hugely appreciated!!) The role-play area, our travel agents will also be used on a daily basis.

In gym we will explore the different ways in which our bodies can move and travel. We will create short sequences of movements and then extend these by using the large apparatus. As they take part in PE lessons the children will be asked to explore the effects this has on their bodies so they can recognise the important role exercise has in staying healthy. This will be explored further in science.

### P.E.



### Art



Following our IPC theme of 'Holidays' the children will be exploring the different ways that holidays have been represented in art form and compare artist's work. They will enjoy sand sculpture, create collages and design a souvenir from a holiday destination to be made out of clay. A very busy and creative time ahead!

With a strong emphasis upon *holidays* and *travelling* this term, the children will be listening to a range of music from different countries and places around the world. Also, they will be exploring 'Duration' and developing their ability to discriminate between longer and shorter sounds and use this skill to create musical sequences of their own.

### Music



In **R.E.** this half term the children will be introduced to the Bible. Whilst learning to recognise its importance to the Christian faith they will also have the opportunity to become more familiar with by enjoying regular 'story sessions' when time will be spent listening as it is read to them.

In **SEAL** lessons our topics will be "New Beginnings' and 'Getting on and Falling out'.

### **Possible DIARY DATE/Just to let you know:**



Our IPC topic 'entry point day' is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Children are invited to dress up.

P.E takes place on Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon.

### **Homework**

A piece of homework is set on a Wednesday and Friday of each week and children have a week to complete the tasks set. We fully appreciate that families are busy at weekends and your time together in the evenings is precious. We have found that by sending the pieces separately parents have more time and homework can fit in around family commitments. In order to allow for flexibility, we will keep a record of homework tasks which are completed and returned to school. Then we are able to monitor your child's progress at home and celebrate their achievements.

Throughout the week, the children are all involved in several reading experiences, often on a daily basis, which includes shared and guided reading sessions with their teachers. Whilst your child may not read at length individually with an adult each week this does not mean that they have not read or been involved in a discussion or learning experience that supports their reading development. All books are changed at least once a week, with time being spent reviewing your child's reading experience with the book that is read at home. Please can we remind you that the book brought home may appear 'easy' as your child should be able to read 90% of it with accuracy and confidence-it's a chance for them to show off having put the work in at school!

Throughout the term, Penguins can contribute to our bank of 'Question of the Week' questions. Children are invited to pose a challenging question, either because they want to find the answer or simply want to quiz their peers. Note: This is optional!

### **And finally....**

An after-school club will be available to the Penguins so please do *watch this space!*

*Once again, we look forward to getting to know you and your child.  
We will work hard to make sure your little ones settle quickly and that  
they are happy in their new classroom.*

*Thank you for your support!  
Should you have any queries about anything at all, please do not hesitate to ask,*

*Kind Regards, Mrs Kimberley Hiller and Mrs Anneke Beecroft*