

# Year 2 Pentecost 1 Newsletter

**Welcome back! I hope you all had lovely Easter break and are feeling refreshed and ready for our new learning.**

## English

This half term as writers, we will be focusing on:

### Zeraffa Giraffa -

In 1824 the Pasha of Egypt gave a baby giraffe to the King of France. Along with her keeper, Atir, Zeraffa Giraffa travelled over 4000 miles, sailing down the Nile, across the Mediterranean and then walking 550 miles from Marseilles to Paris. Zeraffa arrived in 1827, the first giraffe ever seen in France.

### Lila and the Secret of Rain -

For months the sun has burned down on Lila's Kenyan village. It is too hot to gather firewood, too hot to weed the garden, even too hot to milk the cow. Without rain the well will run dry and the crops will fail. Lila is so worried that when her grandfather whispers to her the secret of rain, she decides to go and talk to the sky herself.



### Meerkat Mail -

Sunny lives in the Kalahari Desert. It is VERY dry and VERY hot. Sunny thinks it is TOO hot. Sunny comes from a large family. They work together, eat together, learn together and sleep together. In fact, they are VERY close. Sometimes Sunny thinks they are TOO close. Sometimes Sunny wishes that he could live somewhere else, so he packs his suitcase and writes his family a note.



We are going to be publishing the following genres of text:

**Speech, diary, postcard, narrative retelling and instructions.**

## Maths

This half term, as mathematicians, we are going to be focusing on the following:

### Fractions

We will build upon our Year 1 knowledge by learning about parts and wholes. We will be learning to recognise and find quarters, thirds and halves. We will then be looking at unit fractions and working on counting in fractions up to a whole.

### Time

We will firstly recap our knowledge from Year 1 of telling the time in o'clock and half past. We will then continue our learning to telling the time to 5 minutes. Children will then use their knowledge of how many minutes are in an hour and how many hours in a day to solve problems.

Don't forget, to log into Sumdog to practice all the maths skills your children will need. If you have any questions about how to get onto TTRS, just ask! Your child's login will be stuck in the front of their home school diary.

## RE

This half term is all about Pentecost. Our Big Statement for our learning this half term is 'Spread the word!'. Christians believe that God is active in each person and, in a special way, in the community of believers, which is the Church. It is the work of the Spirit to hear God's message and to live Jesus' way of service. We will look at how the Holy Spirit appeared to Jesus' followers and how the Gospel can be passed on through the Holy Spirit. We will also explore how messages we see daily can be passed on, and what the best means of communication for these are!



## Topic

For our topic learning this half term, we are going to become geographers and travel all the way to Africa! Here is an outline of our learning for this half term:

**In week one, as geographers,** we will locate Africa on a world map and a map of Africa. We will discuss the location of Africa in relation to the UK.

**In week two, as geographers,** we will locate Kenya on a map of Africa and other important features. We will look at how to create a key on a map and learn some key facts about Kenya.

**In week three, as geographers,** we will look at compass directions to explain where places are on a map.

**In week four, as geographers,** we will research which animals are live in Kenya and their habitats.

**In week five, as geographers,** explain which fruit and vegetables grow naturally in Kenya.

**In week six, as geographers,** we will be comparing lives of children living in rural Africa and our daily routines in Hadfield!

Our Geography learning this half term, fits these National Curriculum objectives:

Locational knowledge

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans

Place knowledge

- understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country

Human and physical geography

- identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles

- use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to: key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather

- key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage

- use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West)

## Guided Reading

For our Guided Reading this half term, we are going to be developing our fluency and expression when reading aloud. As we become readers, we will answer questions based around retrieval and inference. We use the DERIC approach to Guided Reading (Decode, Explain, Retrieval, Interpret and Choice). To build these skills this half term, we will be reading Lila and the Secret of Rain and Zaraffa Giraffa. We will also be looking at a range of non-fiction texts.

## Science

We will be continuing our Enquiry Question for this half term is **'Was it ever alive?'**

This enquiry questions lends itself nicely to our Living Things and Their Habitats unit of learning. During this, we will be learning all about living things and their habitats. We will be focusing on whether or not things are alive, once lived or never lived. We will be building our scientific vocabulary by describe different habitats (including micro habitats) and also by developing our understanding of Food Chains.

We do lots of visual learning through this unit, and we will be using two books to help with our habitat learning, The Green Ship and One Day On Our Blue Planet, In the Savannah. These do books showcase habitats and how different things (including animals) can thrive in different environments.

## How can you help?

We had a fantastic half- term and it was so lovely to meet a lot of you at parent's evening. The children have shown some fantastic progress and I have been so proud of all of their hard work!

I will be continuing to send home some maths and English homework that will be recapping learning from this year and preparing the children for their SATs exams.

Beginning to look at telling the time at home would benefit the children greatly, especially if

Thank you for your continued support and as always, please get in touch if you have any questions or worries.

Mr Bowden and Mrs Fraser