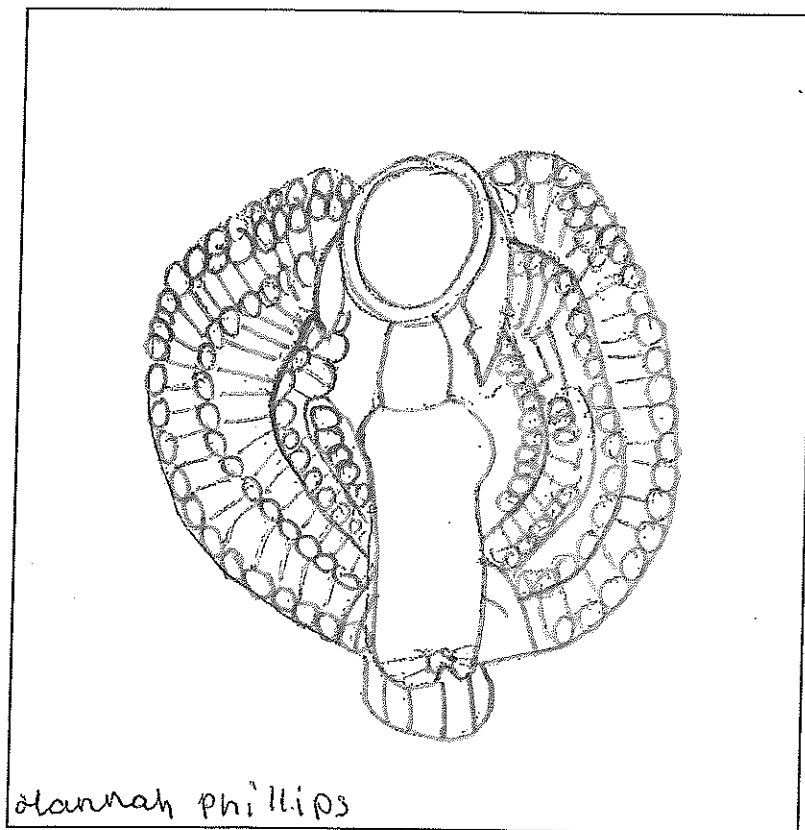


COCKWOOD SCHOOL

How to help your child.

Autumn Term

Class 2



How to help sheet for Class 2 Autumn Term

English

This term literacy lessons will be linked to our class topic, Ancient Egypt. The literacy units that we will be covering include: Stories set in Imaginary Worlds, Information texts, Instructions and Shape poetry. The units have been specifically chosen to support our topic work so that cross curricular links can be made clear to the children. Some children will continue the Read Write Inc. programme to further support reading and writing. Class reading is generally within guided groups where comprehension skills and strategies to improve reading are reinforced. Handwriting will be taught through a specific programme once a week, although the expectation is that the children will consider their presentation at every opportunity. Spellings and word level objectives will be met through daily, differentiated word-work sessions, where spelling strategies will be reinforced. Each child will have their own spelling journal, where they can record the spelling strategies that they learn in lessons and record evidence of their learning/application of their high frequency words. Children will use this book independently both at home and at school. As part of our spelling programme, we will continue to use "Have a Go" spelling books on the children's tables, where they attempt to spell a word and then try to correct themselves/ each other. It would be helpful if you encourage them to have a go at spelling words at home in a similar fashion.

How you can help

Please read with your child on an individual basis at home (at least 15 minutes per day). Children will bring reading books home to read with parents. They also have a reading journal for both of you to record what they have read. Please discuss the reading book and explain the meaning of unknown words. Spend time working through these to help your child make further progress with both their reading and writing skills. Share a range of different text types with your child and discuss the features of these together. You could also take your child to your local library to find out more about the topic and/or use the Internet. As a fun way to practise spellings, you could encourage your child to use the website detailed below in the maths section (www.tutpup.co.uk).

DO'R

Numeracy

Numeracy lessons this term will cover a variety of mathematical areas including counting, place value, calculating, number facts, understanding shape, collecting data and presenting it in graphs and measures. A greater emphasis is placed on mental calculations, strategies for calculations and real-life problem solving. The children will be learning their times tables and having a targeted session each week to practise and challenge themselves on tables and operations (+/-/÷/×). As everyone is still enthused by the recent Olympics, I am introducing a times table Olympics, where the children can earn various "medals" (housepoints) by answering written questions on specific sets of tables within a 3 minute interval. The number of questions and the range of tables increase as they progress through the various rounds of the Olympics. Every fortnight, I will also put challenges (problems to solve/ investigate) on the numeracy board. Children can work on these problems whenever they have free time, so they may wish to discuss these with you at home.

<p>How you can help</p>	<p>Please ensure that your child completes the weekly homework task by helping them to find answers to investigate tasks, or practise mental calculations. This will help your child to make progress. Practise multiplication tables regularly. By the end of the year most children should know their x2 x3 x4 x5 x10 tables. Some children will also learn x6 x7 x8 x9. A really fun way to practise times tables at home would be a website called www.tutpup.co.uk. On this site, the children can log on and play one to one games against other children across the world. There are a variety of maths and spelling challenges of increasing difficulty. The children can each set up their own account and link to the class account I have set up (School Name: Cockwood Primary School, Unique class code: Cockwood_Class2). I can then review the games of any of the children in my class and see which operations/ games they found easy/ difficult etc. DO'R</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>This half term the children will be studying physical processes, namely forces and friction. We will be looking at forces in the context of building pyramids and how factors such as gravity and friction could inhibit building and transport of materials. We will do experiments to determine how we could improve the building process, by reducing friction for example.</p>
<p>How you can help</p>	<p>Encouraging your child to research the different units that we are looking at over the term would be beneficial as we often have open and interesting discussions about various scientific concepts. Discussing with your child what they have done in class would also be advantageous as children may observe concepts learned in school, within the home or in different environments. There are some particularly useful resources on the following website if your child wishes to research our units further. (e.g. http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/science/physical_processes/) DO'R</p>
<p>History</p>	<p>This term we will be finding out all about Ancient Egypt, their culture, customs and daily life and comparing it to modern life. We will begin the unit by establishing what we already know about Ancient Egypt and what we'd like to find out. We will locate Ancient Egypt in time and place, looking at a timeline of major events in Egypt. We will look at pictures of the Egyptian landscape and a range of surviving artefacts from Ancient Egypt and make deductions about Ancient Egyptian society and their dependency on the River Nile. We will explore the idea that many artefacts have been lost over time and that our knowledge of the past is limited by/ dependent on what has survived. We will learn about Ancient Egyptian beliefs about life after death and explore Egyptian tombs, pyramids and mummification. We will also be learning about famous pharaohs and Egyptian Gods.</p>
<p>How you can help</p>	<p>If you have visited Egypt, or have any knowledge of it, it may be useful to discuss this with your child and share any photographs/ souvenirs you may have. It would also be helpful to look at some maps with your child and locate Egypt and important landmarks with Egypt (e.g. Pyramids of Giza). There are plenty of fascinating books on Ancient Egypt in our new school library and in local Devon libraries. There are also a multitude of child-friendly documentaries and websites on various aspects of Ancient Egypt</p>

	<p>(e.g. http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/interactives/history/egypt/).</p> <p>DO'R</p>
ICT	<p>ICT will again be incorporated throughout the entire curriculum, which will include a range of computer programmes supplementing the children's diverse use of ICT. There will also be some discrete ICT lessons. Confidence and safe, efficient use of the internet will be promoted through research tasks, particularly relating to our topic. We will also be creating an ICT-based presentation on Ancient Egypt at the end of our Information Texts literacy unit.</p>
How you can help	<p>If you have a computer at home, encourage your child to practise skills learnt at school as this will help improve their competence within ICT and increase their accuracy and speed of typing. Under your supervision, or through an agreed list of websites, your child may also carry out topic research for our topic in school. Access to a computer can also be gained through your local Devon library. There are a wide range of educational games on-line that can be accessed freely and will help with a range of basic skills. They are a great way to engage and motivate children to reinforce their learning. Woodlands Junior School in Kent have a particularly good website, which provides a range of information, activities and games across the curriculum: http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk. As a school we also subscribe to Espresso – the website and details are on the school newsletters.</p> <p>DO'R</p>
Art	<p>Art work this term will link closely with the class topics of Ancient Egypt and Harvest. We will focus on planning and refining drawings in our sketchbooks using different media to achieve variations in line, texture, tone, colour, shape and pattern</p> <p>We will also work towards painting an Ancient Egyptian Portrait and creating an Ancient Egyptian cartouche using a simplified Hieroglyphic Alphabet.</p>
How you can help	<p>Help your child to research art in Ancient Egypt at your local library and on the internet, looking at the colours and materials used. When looking at things, discuss with them how to observe carefully, looking at detail rather than just the outline.</p> <p>HH</p>
PE	<p>In Games, pupils will be taking part in volleyball this half term. They will learn the key skills, tactics and rules of the sport and have the opportunity to work in pairs and groups of varying sizes. Pupils will be encouraged to evaluate their own performance in order to improve and through these sessions will gain a better understanding of fitness and health. When the weather is good these lessons will take place on the field. After half term, pupils will be playing tag rugby on the field every week. As with volleyball, the children will revisit basic skills and have the opportunity to improve their own performance.</p> <p>There will be a weekly lesson of dance this term. We will focus on space awareness and learn skills and techniques to use in crafting both individual</p>

	and group sequences. The emphasis will be on evaluating and improving their dance to produce work they can be proud of!
How you can help	Please encourage your child to participate fully with all types of PE and Games activities and support them in taking responsibility for remembering the correct PE kit on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All outdoor sessions will take place on Tuesdays so if outdoor clothing such as tracksuit bottoms etc do get muddy then pupils will need these items back to school by the following Tuesday. Your child will need old trainers for these outdoor sessions and waterproofs when the weather is wet. Pupils will need indoor kit for lessons on Thursdays. LC/HH
Music	In music this term we will explore using our voices, especially preparing for Harvest Festival and our Christmas music. Later in the term as part of the Wider Opportunities scheme in Music, the children will be introduced to the melodica. This scheme gives children an opportunity to handle and play a pitched instrument, whilst learning key skills from the music curriculum.
How you can help	Encourage your child to sing at home and practise words sent home to learn. There are also an increasing number of opportunities for our more talented musicians to join local groups/ensembles including the Local Learning Community Orchestra. We will inform the appropriate children as details emerge over the next term. But please feel free to express any interest you have in these areas. HH
French	We will continue to learn some French. New vocabulary is presented with a graded approach, which initially allows the children opportunities to hear and respond physically before having to repeat the words and produce them themselves. This is later followed with responding verbally as a class and then individually. There will be opportunities to listen to, speak and sing French informally during the school day e.g. during register times, lining up in the playground and in assemblies.
How can you help	Encourage your child to sing in French as this can help to develop self-confidence, as children focus on the music or rhythm rather than worrying about pronunciation. There are some useful web sites which children can access at home e.g. BBC Education, where they can find fun tasks to help consolidate their learning at school. HH
RE	The children will be following a theme of pilgrimage and sacred places. They will have the opportunity to study the key features of worship and what worship means to a believer in Christianity and Hinduism. Children will explore the concepts of pilgrimage and sacred places within the contexts of Christianity and Hinduism.

<p>How you can help</p>	<p>Talk with your child about significant journeys and visits to special places you have made. Encourage your child to find out about Hindu beliefs using the Internet and information books. HH</p>
<p>PSHE</p>	<p>The themes for this term are 'New Beginnings' and 'Getting on and falling out'. The children will be exploring rules within the school community, and celebrating how each of them is special and valued within that community. They will explore, through role play, what makes them angry, and how to resolve problems peacefully.</p>
<p>How you can help</p>	<p>Encourage your child to recognise their own gifts, talents and feelings, and to use these to be a good friend and make a positive contribution to the Cockwood School Community. HH</p>
<p>Home learning</p>	<p>Homework will be set weekly on a Thursday and due in on Monday mornings, thus providing plenty of time for your child to ask if they are unsure and a full weekend to complete any work. The children should find their homework an extension of class based work and shouldn't take any more than half an hour. I will also expect your child to read their chosen book every night.</p> <p>I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions or need to talk to me about anything do not hesitate to ring the school or come in and see me. Miss D O'Reilly</p>