Welcome back everyone, for the beginning of our final term in Year 2. We hope that you are all feeling rested and refreshed after the Easter holidays.

Our topic for this half term is ‘Arriba!’ as off we go to Mexico!

Religious Education
Our first topic is called ‘Spread the Word’. In this topic, the children will learn about Pentecost, the feast of the Holy Spirit, and the importance of this for the first disciples and for all Christians in spreading the Good News of the Gospels. On the 6th May we look forward to our annual pilgrimage to Beauvale Priory, remembering the sacrifices that were made in order to proclaim and bear witness to the Good News – it would be fantastic to see as many of our pupils as possible attending this very special event in our school calendar.

Afterwards we will be undertaking the topic: ‘Rules’, where the children will explore reasons for rules in the Christian family and will learn about the sacrament of Reconciliation. They will explore what Jesus says about always being ready to forgive. They will learn what an Act of Contrition is and why it is important.

Literacy
We will be developing speaking and listening, reading and writing skills through exploring a range of non-fiction texts related to our topic work about Mexico, in particular reading and writing recounts and reports.

We will also be exploring some traditional folk stories from Mexico, including the story of Adelita (a Mexican version of Cinderella – including a little Spanish!). The pupils will compare folk tales and consider the typical storylines and character types of traditional stories.

‘Big Writing’ will continue on Fridays with ‘Talk Homework’ being set every Wednesday in preparation for their writing. (Remember talk homework requires no writing.)

Numeracy
In Numeracy we will be continuing our Maths Makes Sense programme. In Arithmetic pupils will learn how calculate one and two-step word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. They will complete a variety of number puzzles (e.g. missing number equations) and will find halves and quarters of numbers and objects. In Geometry the children will recognise 2D shapes and polygons and name individual polygons. They will recognise and name ‘special’ triangles and quadrilaterals e.g, equilateral and isosceles triangles. In Data and Measure pupils will be taught how to interpret information presented in bar charts and pictograms. They will answer simple questions and word problems related to bar charts and will learn related language e.g, title, axis, label, bar.

In Reasoning the children will be learning how to select and use appropriate measuring tools to solve word problems involving measures. They will use ‘Think About the Word Problem’ steps to solve real life measuring problems.

The children need to learn at least their 2, 5 and 10 times tables with fast recall, they also need to secure their 3 and 4 times tables, multiplication work will continue in class and times tables will be tested every Monday to develop this.
Topics
In Science the children will be continuing their learning about ‘Plants and Animals... in our back yard!’ We will be undertaking a mini-beast hunt around school, learning how to identify and group mini-beasts, learning about their different habitats (using the data logger to measure their living conditions), thinking about simple mini-beast food chains and life-cycles.
In Geography we will be learning about a contrasting overseas locality: ‘Tocuaro’, a village in Mexico. We will be comparing daily life, the weather, food, transport etc with life in Nottinghamshire. (We have a yummy Mexican food tasting session to look forward to!) In Art we will make links with geography, exploring the Mexican art of making masks – an important craft in the village of Tocuaro. In Computing the children will be learning about communication with others using the internet - linked with our topic work about Mexico. They will be taught to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identifying where to go to for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies. Our Music will use the theme of ‘Weather’ to develop pupils’ abilities to perform, listen to, compose, review and evaluate music. The children will be developing a deeper understanding of timbre, dynamics and tempo through listening to Mexican music and will develop their own weather songs about the Mexican climate.

Statutory Key Stage 1 Tests
During May we will be undertaking the Statutory Key Stage 1 Tests which include 2 reading comprehension papers, an arithmetic test and maths reasoning paper. These tests are used to support and inform teacher assessment and help establish assessment levels in Literacy and Numeracy for each child (reported in their end of year school report as either working towards the expected standard, working at the expected standard or working in greater depth at the expected standard). We are obliged to undertake these assessments during the month of May and stress the importance of good attendance during this time. We are very careful not to place undue pressure on the children, they inevitably recognise they are doing a test, but we explain to them that they are doing ‘special work booklets’ to show their next teacher in Year 3 what they know and can do, and what they might need more help with. The children understand it is all about ‘getting ready for the juniors’. The children have had a few practice papers so we can gauge the best way to deliver the tests in order that they show fully what they can achieve independently. We are allowed to deliver the tests individually, in groups or as a whole class, we are allowed to stop tests early if a child is struggling, we ensure relaxed and supportive conditions. We would appreciate your support in not ‘hyping up’ these tests with your child – they are an important indicator of their capability, but we must stress, they are only part of a fuller picture of your child’s ability using a wide range of teacher assessments.

General Reminders:
Reading, Spellings, Times Tables and Homework:
Guided Reading to the teacher will take place weekly, and there will be regular opportunities to read to adults in school. It is very important that children continue to read regularly at home and are involved in lots of talking about their reading books, answering questions by referring to the text, sharing opinions and preferences, please can pupils also note their reading in their diaries. We need a big push to improve reading fluency ready for the juniors.
Spellings and times tables for the half term are again, given in their spelling book; this ensures that each child has their spellings/times tables even if they are absent. Spellings/times tables tests will be on Mondays.
The next homework project will be set in your child’s talk homework book and is also on our class webpage. Please don’t forget to share our ‘Wednesday Word’ preparing the children for the Gospel reading each weekend.
PE Kit: Children continue to require their own PE kit (clearly named) for our weekly sessions on Monday and Wednesday. With the summer term here, we hope to achieve more outdoor PE sessions and each pupil needs outdoor PE kit (trainers for outside and plimsolls for indoors are required).

Looking forward to a lovely summer term! Kind Regards: Mrs Harrison and Mrs Kelly