



# 'Welcome to Form Two'

Autumn Term 2011



Cranford House



# Welcome to Form Two

Welcome to the new school year. We hope you enjoyed your summer holidays. These notes are to give you useful information about life in Form Two at Cranford House. We do hope they are helpful, but please feel free to talk to us if you have a query.

The first term in Form 2 is set to be a very busy, but also very exciting one! We will be continuing to encourage creativity within the curriculum by our topic-based teaching starting with the topic of Fire. Within this topic, we have planned carefully to ensure balanced coverage of History, Geography, Science, DT, Art and some ICT objectives. The topic will also allow for various types of Literacy work.

## **'Fire' Topic**

This topic allows plenty of scope for imagination and excitement. It will cover four themes throughout the term: Uses and Origins, The Great Fire of London, Fireworks and Firework Safety, and Fiery Dragons.

## **Literacy (within Topic)**

Reading and writing sun and fire myths  
Writing a recipe for a chocolate cake  
Writing a newspaper report of the Great Fire of London  
Reading and writing instructions including Firework Code  
Writing a diary extract  
Reading and writing Firework poems  
Sequencing and retelling story of Guy Fawkes  
Devising a safety leaflet  
Writing character profiles and book reviews  
Planning and writing a dragon story

## **History and Geography**

Finding locations on maps  
Great Fire of London  
Samuel Pepys diary  
The Gunpowder Plot  
Firework celebrations around the world  
Ancient maps and coats of arms

# Form Two Curriculum

## Science

Heating and melting experiments using chocolate and wax

Ice experiments

Facts about the movements of the sun and earth

Effects of fire in the outside environment

Uses and dangers of electricity

Making simple circuits

Conductors and insulators

## Art and DT

Taste tests with raw and cooked fruit and vegetables

Making a chocolate cake

Blow painting

Fire and ice collage

Firework pictures using pastels and junk modelling

Clay candleholders

Planning and making a model dragon

## Reading

The children will continue to read individual reading books. Some children will still require structured, phonic reading books and more fluent readers will choose their books from within their current reading level. The children will visit the library weekly and choose a new book to take home (provided they have returned their current book!). We will check their book bags daily, to read your comments and to change books if necessary. Your help in discussing the content of each book, talking about characters and predicting possible outcomes is invaluable in helping to improve your child's comprehension and language development.

## Phonics and Grammar

We will be using the synthetic phonics method of teaching spelling and following the Jolly Grammar programme. We will encourage correct sentence punctuation including capitals for proper nouns. We will also cover alphabetical order. The children will also learn to use a dictionary and to recognise verbs and adjectives. They will work in two ability groups, learning one or more spelling patterns which will be tested on Friday. In the first term particularly, the children will need to revise and consolidate some of their learning from Form 1. We will be most appreciative of parents help in practising spellings regularly!

# Form Two Curriculum

## **Handwriting**

We will encourage the children to form upper and lower case letters correctly and neatly and to use appropriate size and spacing.

We will be teaching the essential joins for cursive handwriting following the Nelson Handwriting Scheme during this term. The children will not be expected to join their writing fully until after Christmas.

## **Mathematics**

We will be using the scheme *Abacus Evolve*. The children will practise counting skills up to 100 and recognise the value of tens and units. Practice in estimating larger numbers is particularly helpful here. We will reinforce number bonds to 10, and work on number bonds to 20, and extend their knowledge of addition and subtraction, using these skills to solve simple real life problems. We will also be learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and using this to work out corresponding times tables. The children will learn to recognise all coins and to find totals and change, if confident. In practical Maths we will estimate, measure and compare lengths, choosing suitable equipment to measure in centimetres or metres. We will be collecting and recording data and representing it as block graphs and pictograms to show results. They will also learn the names of some 2D and 3D shapes and be able to describe their features. We will begin to tell the time to the half and quarter of an hour and identify time intervals. The children will follow and give instructions involving position, direction and movement.

## **PHSE**

This term we will be focussing on positive attitudes towards each other. We will talk about friendship and the need to work together. We will also discuss the need for rules and the difference between right and wrong. During the term children will be chosen as a 'special person' and their classmates given the opportunity to talk about their attributes and interests.

# Form Two Curriculum

## Religious Studies

We will be looking at celebrations, both religious and non-religious. We will discuss the significance of Advent and the meaning that Christmas has for Christians.

## ICT

The children will be doing ICT in the Hub every week. We will ensure they know how to log on and off, as well as learning general word processing skills, such as changing the font type and size and changing colour. To develop and practise these skills, we will link ICT to the topic of fire for this term.

## Music

In Form Two the children develop their ability to discriminate between higher and lower sounds and to create simple melodic patterns. They learn to recognise different ways sounds are made and changed and to name and learn to play a variety of Classroom instruments. They learn to recognise how sounds and instruments can be used expressively and combined to create music in response to a stimulus.

The children sing weekly as part of the Lower School Choir. They will also be having weekly violin and recorder lessons on Wednesday afternoons.

## French

Madame Butler will be teaching French to Form 2 this year. She will be developing basic French vocabulary, predominantly through nursery rhymes, songs and games.

## PE and Games

Mr Meakin will be teaching PE to Form 2 this year. 2G will be having double PE lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 2H will be having double PE lessons on Wednesdays and Fridays. This will include parachute games, gymnastics and football. Mrs Graham will be taking the children for swimming every Tuesday.

## Drama

This year Mrs J'Anson will be taking the children for Drama in the drama studio once a week. The lessons will be planned to support the curriculum.

## **Homework**

As well as nightly reading, we will be sending home a piece of homework on a Friday. This work should be returned to school by Wednesday. Spellings will be given out on Mondays, for a test on Friday.

## **Building Learning Power**

Over the past year, the whole school has been working on a new initiative called Building Learning Power. As the name suggests, we have been focussing on the key skills and attitudes which children need to enable optimum learning and development to take place. These are curiosity, imagination, reasoning, collaboration and resilience. We are also putting greater emphasis on looking at the **process** of learning, as well as the end results. Look out for references to BLP in reports and displays too!

## **General Requests!**

Please ensure that all your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name. If your child is having after school swimming lessons, please put their swimming bags in the green box by the PE shed (near the adventure playground and the arch to Willow Court).

PE kits can be kept at school and taken home for a wash at Half Term. School swimming costumes and hats should be brought in for swimming lessons on Tuesdays. They need to be taken home that evening to be washed and can then be returned to school anytime before The next Tuesdays lesson.

Please check reading book bags regularly for any communication from school.

Please inform the class teacher of any concerns, or changes to arrangements for your child's collection at the end of the day.

**We are looking forward to having a happy and exciting year with you and your child!**

**The Form 2 Staff**

**Anne Greedy, Alison Howell, Elaine Drury  
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