**ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND**

**(VA) FIRST SCHOOL**

**6th January 2019**

Year 2 Newsletter 3

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and are ready to start a new term. I have had a great Christmas and am feeling very rested.

During this half term, we will be concentrating on developing our understanding of how castles have changed over time. We will be putting periods of history in chronological order on a timeline and discuss what life would be like in those eras. During this topic, we will also be identifying features of a castle during different periods of time. In addition to their learning in class, we will also be visiting Newcastle Castle to gain a deeper understanding of what it was like to live in a castle. This will also bring to life how the castle design developed over time. In Science, we will be investigating everyday materials linked to castles. This Science topic will investigate properties of materials and how this impacts decisions made by people who make objects. We will also be researching famous inventors of materials and how their discovery or invention has changed our everyday life. To further your child’s learning you can read fiction and non-fiction books around materials and castles or visit local castles for them to see a range of styles such as Belsay Castle. You may also want to discuss key vocabulary and the features of a castle. Finally, you may wish to discuss every day materials and their properties at home and why those properties are suitable for its use so that your child can transfer their knowledge to a different setting.

This half term, reading books will continue to be changed on a Tuesday, where children will be given two or three books to read during the following week. The National Curriculum states that children should read and re-read texts to develop their fluency and pace; these are skills which are hard to establish in a first read through, so we would ask that children read both books at least twice before the following Tuesday if the books are short. If your child is reading a chapter book, please re-read a part of the text or paragraph on each page. Children may start to choose their own books if they become a free reader but we will do this when individuals are ready to do so. Please remember to write a short note in your child’s Reading Record book each time you listen to your child read daily. This helps me understand their reading journey at home and also track how well they are reading at home. Please could you ensure book bags are brought to school everyday, checked for letters every night and old letters removed. Please to not attach key rings on the book bag as they then do not fit in your child’s drawer.

PE days are changing this half term to a Tuesday and Thursday. PE kits should be left in school (on cloakroom pegs) and should contain a pair of trainers for outdoor lessons. Please do not send in laced trainers unless your child can tie them independently. It would be very helpful if any child with long hair could have their hair tied up in a ponytail on this day. Please ensure your child has a water bottle in school on Monday to be returned on Friday.

Homework will continue to be sent out on a Thursday, to be returned the following Tuesday please. This will be one page of English, one page of Maths and spellings linked to the learning we have done in class. In class, children will continue to be taught the spelling rule and also have time to discuss the definitions of the words. Please continue to discuss the rule and definition of the spelling with your child as this learning is very purposeful to remembering a spelling. The strategy box is for your child to decide a way to practice a given spelling.

I am very grateful to all the parents and carers who volunteer their time in our classroom. If you feel you could donate any (regular) spare time, or know of anyone who is interested in donating some time to school, you are more than welcome to join us. Some parents enjoy helping with visits, others enjoy working with small groups of children and others like to do things like change books and laminate etc. If you have DBS clearance and are interested in helping us, please speak to me or Mrs Pygal.

If you have any questions, please do pop in to see me at the end of the school day. If this is not possible, as always, feel free to email me. charlotte.orr@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Orr

Dates for the diary

Thursday 16th January- Newcastle Castle Trip

Thursday 16th January- PTFA Film night

Thursday 30th January- Managing challenging behavior workshop for parents 5:00pm

Thursday 31st January- Managing challenging behavior workshop for parents 9:00 am

Monday 10th February- Parents evening

Tuesday 11th February- Parents evening

Thursday 13th February- PTFA Valentine’s disco

Monday 17th February- 21st February- Half term

Monday 24th February- Children back to school

Monday 24th February- International World Thinking Day. Anyone in cubs, beavers, Rainbows or Brownies are welcome to wear their uniform.

Tuesday 25th February- Year 4 Lent Worship. All welcome.

2nd-6th March- Book Week

Thursday 5th March- World Book Day. Children are welcome to dress up.

Friday 6th March- Year 2 visit to Life Centre.

9th-13th March- Science Week

Friday 20th March- year 1-4 Mothers Day Worship

Friday 27th March- Year 2 SATs meeting 9:00am – please come along.