



Autumn Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! And welcome to your new class...Squirrels! I would first like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. I'm Mr Thomson and some of you may be familiar with me from previous years. I have been relishing the opportunity to get into the classroom and begin working with this wonderful group of children in year 2 and I am looking forward to meeting many of you along the way.

After all the disruption at the end of last year, I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are fully rested in preparation for the long and busy term ahead. The 6 weeks have flown by and the classroom and school have enjoyed a tidy ready for the children's return. As many of the children will have experienced the school will be a little different but I am sure they will all settle into the new routines quickly. I hope everyone will enjoy the lessons and new learning that are to come.

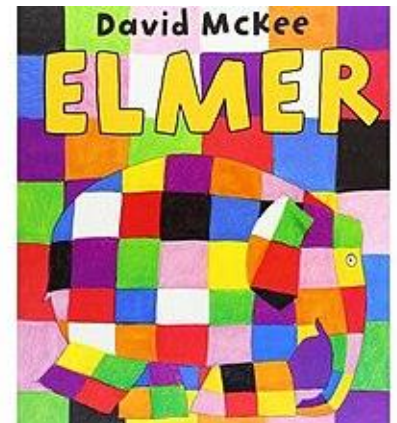
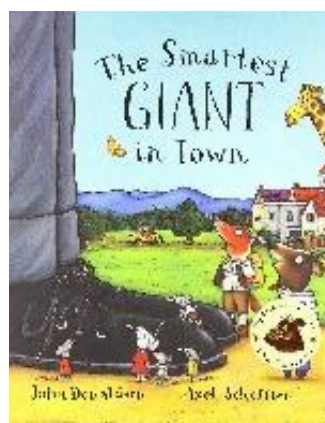
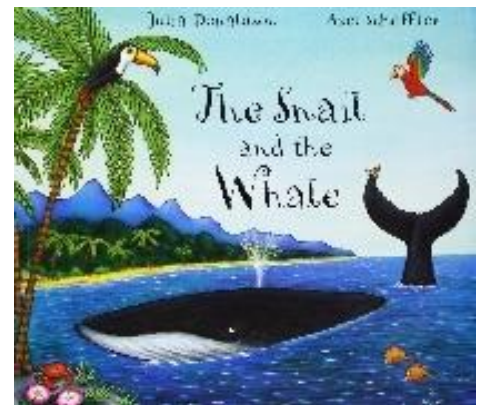
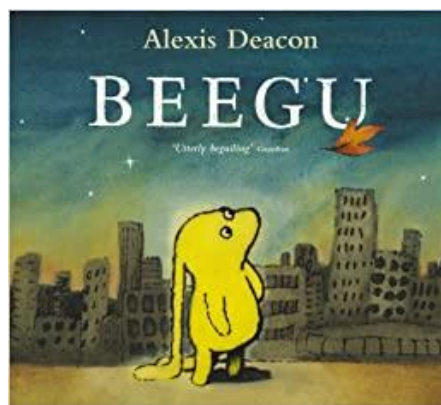
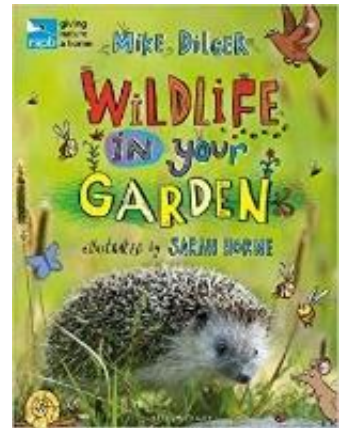
English

Our English lessons this year will be slightly different from previous years. We have decided in year 2 to go from one main text for the term to having a range of books. These have a theme to them that links to our PSHE lessons. These themes will include belonging, friendships and accepting yourself.

Please encourage your child to read at home and take the time to questions and discuss what they have read. This questioning will deepen the children's understanding of what they read and this will in turn increase their enjoyment of books as they can read more complex texts. Record any reading in the Reading Record Book. Initially the children will not be able to borrow books from school but this reading can be from books at home; anything can go in the record book. We are having a big push on reading and reading for pleasure as this is such an important skill to have.

To begin this year the children will have access to many different texts in our English lessons (these can be seen in the pictures). Through these we will do many different activities and look at the grammar rules around them. We have changed from having one main focus text for the term to try and give the children a greater experience of books.

Reading is a big part of my life and I hope to be able to inspire the class to read for pleasure and with confidence. I will share with them many quality texts



throughout the year. At the bottom of this newsletter I have included my recommended reading list for this term. This has many books that have different themes and is designed to help find a reading genre that your child is interested in.

Topic

In science this term we will be looking at living things and their habitats. The children will explore the elements that make something living and compare this to things that are not. They will look at the different habitats of animals and how they are adapted to their environments. We will complete this unit by looking at food chains and how these are critical to the life of the animals around us.

At the end of the first Autumn half term, the children will look at the physical and human features of our environment. They will learn how they are different from each other and by going on a learning walk they will see many of the features that are around them every day. Along with the Geography, the children will be studying history and the first half term will be looking at the history of the first aeroplane flight. I love studying planes and hope this will be an exciting topic for the children. In the second half term they will be recapping the Great Fire of London and finishing off that topic that was cut short last year.

This term in art the children will look at how colours work together. They will investigate primary and secondary colours and how they can be mixed, as well as different tones of colours. We will also be looking at a bit of textiles in DT with the children making their own pouch.

Homework

Homework this term will initially come in the form of spellings, times tables and reading. We encourage the children to read every day even if it is just for a short time. This will improve their fluency and will lead to a greater comprehension of the books they encounter both at home and at school. We will be sending out some activities over Showbie that are to be completed at home, this will be a short maths, phonics and English activity.

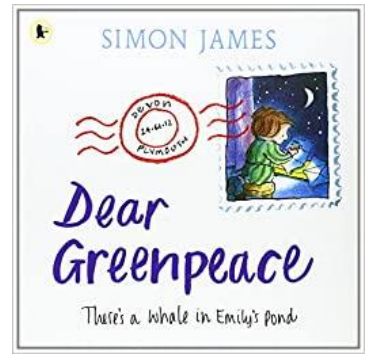
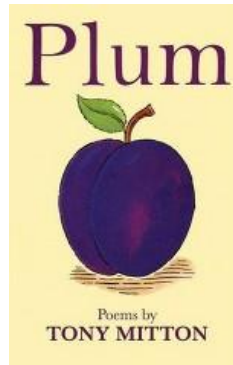
The children will be continuing with their Times Table Rockstars work this year. This was really successful last year, and the children seemed to really enjoy the interactive nature of the scheme. The children will do four timed tests at the beginning of each maths lesson and will have some time for the computer-based activities on Friday morning.

As mentioned above we are having a big push on phonics at the beginning of this year. Spellings patterns will be introduced and taught and I may add little activities to help practice these rules at home later in the term.

We encourage you to get involved with as many of these activities as you can as it will give your child more confidence when using these skills in school. This makes it a social and slightly competitive exercise which will help your child improve.

PE

For this term, Squirrels class will have PE on Wednesday and a Friday; Wednesday is the normal routine as we had last year with the children coming in in their PE kit. Friday's session will be outside with myself and Wednesday's session will be with a qualified sports coach. The outdoor sessions this term will look to focus on how we can travel and will be integrating different objects into this. The goals of these sessions are to improve the children's balance, coordination and gross motor skills. During the sessions, I will look to include games that will let the children use the skills that they have learnt in a wider context.



In the Wednesday sessions the children will be lucky enough to be able to have a professional sports coach taking them for a range of sports. These will include, gym, dance, as well as several others. These are a great chance for the children to be taught by a highly qualified coach in a range of different skills.

For indoor PE lessons the children must have shorts and t-shirt, it gets very warm inside and particularly for gymnastics jumping and stretching in tracksuit bottoms is not easy. As the term progresses, jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt are essential for outdoor sessions. Please note that all PE kit must conform to the uniform policy.

Furthermore, earrings are to be removed or not to be worn on PE days and long hair needs to be tied back. Finally, as always, please ensure that every item of PE kit and school uniform are clearly named and in a small bag that does up to avoid the kit falling out of the carrier bag or rucksack on to the floor. Ideally a drawstring bag is best.

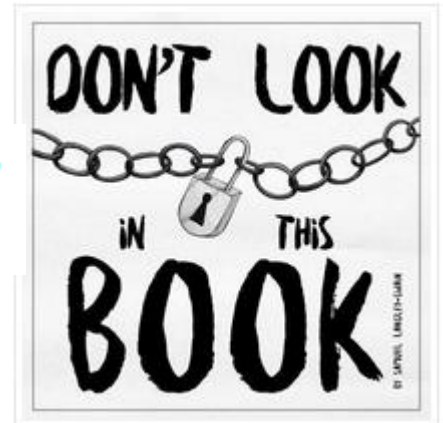
Meanwhile, if you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I hope that this year will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding year for everybody in Squirrels Class and I very much hope that you will join us in helping to make this happen.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for all your support

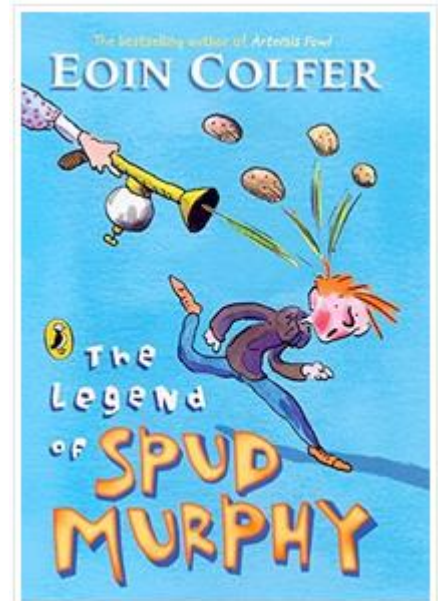
Mr Matthew Thomson

Autumn class reading list

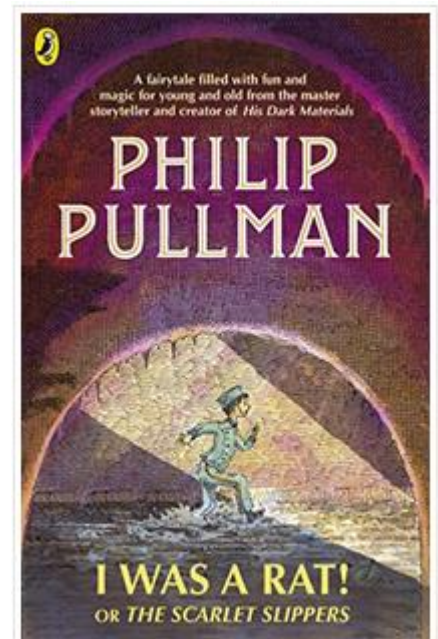
Don't Look in this Book by Samuel Langley-Swain



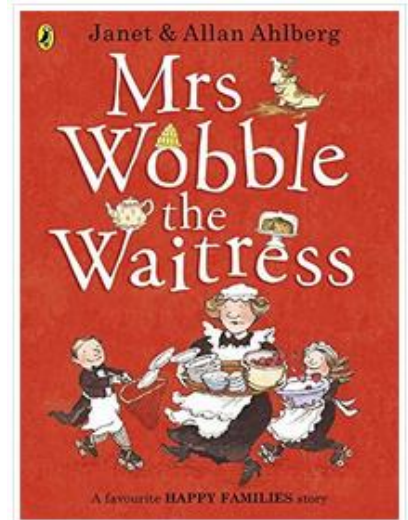
The Legend of Spud Murphy by Eoin Colfer



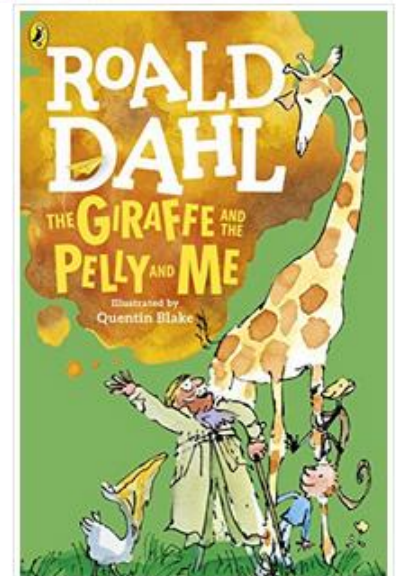
I Was a Rat!: Or, the Scarlet Slippers by Philip Pullman



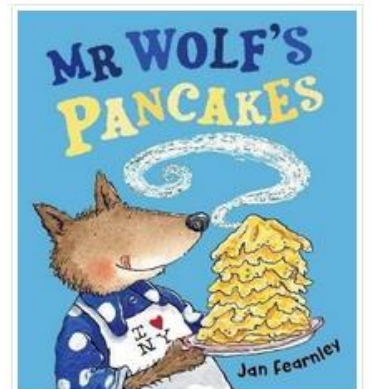
Mrs Wobble the Waitress by Allan Ahlberg



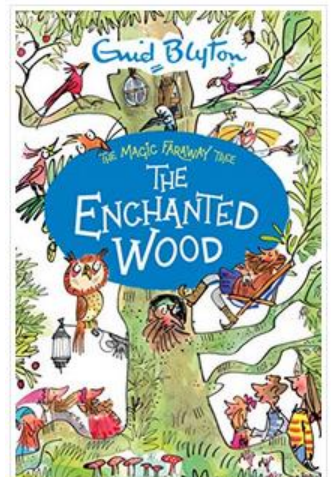
The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl



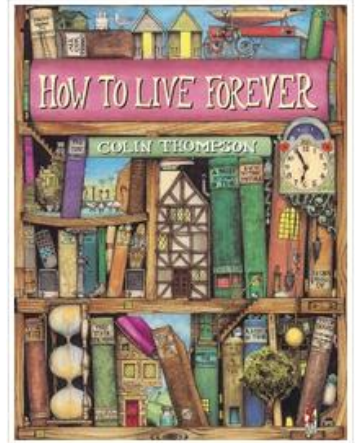
Mr Wolf's Pancakes by Jan Fearnley



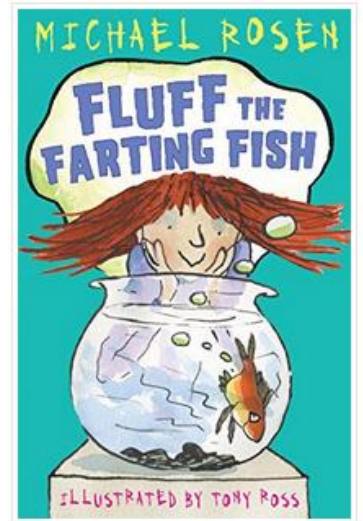
The Enchanted Wood by Enid Blyton



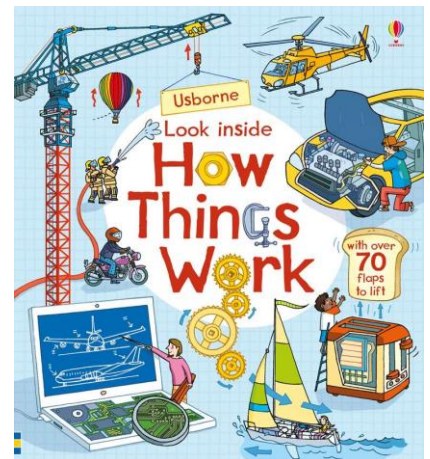
How To Live Forever by Colin Thompson



Fluff the Farting Fish by Michael Rosen



How Things Work by Usborne



Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems

