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Cleves Cross Primary and
Nursery School
Ferryhill
County Durham
DL17 8QY



Year 2 Autumn 1 2021



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Cleves Cross after what has been a challenging and unknown time recently. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and thank you in advance for your continued support. Please keep an eye on the app for any further information or changes as the term progresses.

Our topic for this term is 'Amazing Animals' which will give the children the opportunity to explore a variety of different animals, how they behave and where they live.

What are we going to be doing this half term?

English - Linked with our animal topic and Science lessons, children will be creating their own non-fiction leaflets all about different animals. We will use iPads to help us find interesting information and then create some fact files too. We will be reading a variety of stories with familiar settings which contain animals such as 'The tiger who lost his stripes'. Then we will write our own version of the stories. There will be a big focus on phonics and reading this year. This will build on the children's knowledge of phonics learnt in Year 1 and emphasise the importance of reading for pleasure.

Maths - We will be covering a wide range of skills in maths and these will change regularly. Our focus this half term will be Place Value which will include: estimating and counting objects up to 100; understanding place value in larger numbers; exploring mental methods for both addition and subtraction; comparing objects and numbers. Later in the term, children will gain access to Times Table Rockstars. A separate note will be sent about this where children will receive their own personal log in to access the website from home.

RE - Questions for us to explore this half term include: 'Why is the Bible special to Christians?' and 'What can we learn from the story of St. Cuthbert?'

PHSE - The theme for this half term will be 'What makes a good friend?' Children will have the opportunity to discuss how to make friends with others and how to recognise if they are lonely and what we can do about it. We will also explore how to ask for help if a friendship is making them unhappy. We will also be doing a lot of work around the 'Zones of Regulation'. Your child may have already told you about the zones! Ask them and see if they can tell you.





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Science - Due to our topic being based on animals, lots of science skills will be covered this term. Children will classify animals into different groups and also explore their offspring and how animals develop over time. The needs of animals will also be considered and the different habitats where they live. We will also be thinking about the habitats we can find in our own school grounds and go on our very own habitat hunt which I am sure will be very exciting.



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Computing - As children are using computers more often, we will discuss the importance of staying safe online and choices we can make to help. Children will have a basic understanding of what an algorithm is and how this can control a device when used correctly. We will also be using the laptops and learn how to use Microsoft Word more confidently, looking at improving our typing skills.

Geography - Linking to animals and where they come from, we will look at the different countries, oceans and continents on the Earth. Children will be able to locate these on a variety of different maps and also explore using an atlas confidently. We will also compare different climates in the world and why animals adapt to these differently.

PE - Our PE sessions are on a **Wednesday** and **Friday** afternoon. Thank you for sending your child's PE kit into school which will stay for the whole half-term. The children require a t-shirt, shorts and trainers. To avoid any accidents, please remove earrings on PE days. Our topics in PE this half term include 'Ten Point Hoops' - a games unit where children work on their throwing accuracy and defending skills and also a Gymnastics themed unit where children will build on the skills they learnt last year. We will also take advantage of the outdoor areas to work on some fundamental movement skills.

Homework is given out on **Friday** and should be returned on **Tuesday** - this allows the children to ask if they are unsure about their task on Monday. Some of our homework might be given on paper and some online.

May I also highlight the importance of regular reading at home and I appreciate your support in signing the children's diaries regularly. We should be aiming to read as often as possible. Children need to ensure that their reading books and diaries are in school every day and these will be changed weekly.

If you would like to discuss any aspects of the curriculum further, please do not hesitate to contact me at school or via the class email at: y2cleves@cclt.education and I will be happy to give you further information.

Yours sincerely
Miss Parkin and Mrs Cross
Year 2 Class Teacher

