Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the spring term. We hope you enjoyed the holidays and we are really pleased to see that the children have arrived back in school as enthusiastic as ever. The children really enjoyed our topic all about 'How did Newcastle get its name?' We were really impressed with their interest and knowledge. We are also sure that the children will really like our new topic 'What is deep down underground our feet in Gosforth?' which is all about coal mining in the local area. We are delighted to be able to organise our first trip to Woodhorn Colliery towards the end of March. We have visited Woodhorn many times before and it is a brilliant trip which allows children to experience what life was like for miners and their families in the past. More information about the trip will follow as soon as we have all of the details.

Reading:

The children continue to be confident about changing their own reading books and talking to me about the books they are reading. It is great to see that most children are continuing to read regularly at home.

In school, we are continuing to have a big focus on comprehension and ensuring that children understand the words they are reading and the nuances of what is happening in their stories. Sometimes, when children are fluent readers, we assume that they are reading with understanding.

However, following questioning, we find that they haven't grasped the more subtle clues in the texts. Please continue to ask your children to summarise what they have been reading and ask them some questions related to the text.

Maths at Home:

Every morning, when the children come into class, they practise their Year 2 spellings and then they solve mixed maths calculations involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We mix up how the calculations are presented; sometimes having the answer first and missing numbers, such as: 23=20+?

It is really important that the children know their number bonds to 10 (e.g. 3+7=10), fluently so that they can apply this knowledge to number bonds to 20 (e.g. 13+7=20), and to number bonds to 100 (e.g.30+70=100). It would be very beneficial if you could practise these at home to ensure that your child has this knowledge at their fingertips.

PE Days:

This half term, our PE days are **Tuesday** and **Wednesday.** Please ensure that PE kits remain in school every day because these days can be subject to change and we also occasionally have extra PE sessions from visiting coaches.

Spellings:

Please continue to practise the common exception words for Year 2. A copy of these, along with the spellings for Year 1, can be found on the KS1 section of our school website.

Please let me know if you have any questions about anything and thank you for all of your support.

Best wishes
Sue Ward

English	Maths
Reading opportunities In reading, children will read and discuss a range of information books linked to our topics. Our theme for fiction will be 'Sharing a Story' and we will be focusing on reading for pleasure and recommending books to others. We will also be reading a variety of classic and contemporary poems. Throughout the half term children will be: • asking and answering questions about texts • applying phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words • reading accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words • make inferences on the basis of what is being said and done • infer what characters are like from actions **Writing opportunities:** In writing, children will learn to write explanations, recounts and their own short poems. Children will be: • using well chosen adjectives • learning to write, review and improve • organising their writing in line with its purpose • grouping related information • learning to join letters and ensuring that they can form their letters correctly • using familiar and new punctuation correctly including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks and commas for lists • using some of the characteristic features of the type of writing used **Handwriting joins:** *air, ear, oor, our, ing* **Spellings:** • **spelling homophones (e.g. their, there and they're)** • **contractions (e.g. don't, can't, I'll)** • **using the possessive apostrophe (e.g. 'The dog's blanket')** • **spelling words ending in 'tion'** • **spelling the Year 2 common exception words**	**Number** Children will learn to: • count in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in tens from any number, forward or backward • recall and use addition and subtraction facts to 20 fluently, and derive and use related facts up to 100 • show that addition of two numbers can be done in any order (commutative) and subtraction of one number from another cannot • recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers • solve problems involving multiplication and division, using materials, arrays, repeated addition, mental methods, and multiplication and division facts, including problems in contexts Expectations are that children will develop fluent methods for calculating mentally. Children who are confident with this will add and subtract 3 numbers and will work to find the missing numbers in calculations involving all the operations. **Geometry: Properties of Shape** Children will learn to: • identify and describe the properties of 2D shapes, including the number of sides and line symmetry in a vertical line • identify and describe the properties of 3D shapes, including the number of edges, vertices and faces • identify 2D shapes on the surface of 3D shapes, [for example, a circle on a cylinder and a triangle on a pyramid] • compare and sort common 2D and 3D shapes and everyday objects • order and arrange combinations of mathematical objects in patterns and sequences **Fractions** Children will learn to: • recognise, find, name and write fractions $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a length, shape, set of objects or quantity • write simple fractions e.g. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 6 = 3 • recognise the equivalence of $\frac{2}{4}$ and ½ **Measurement: length and mass** Children will learn to: • choose and use appropriate standard units to estimate and measure length/height in any direction (m/cm) and mass (kg/g) to the nearest appropriate unit, using rulers and scales • compare and order length and mass and record the results using >, < and =