

Dear Parents,

Over the next 5 weeks those of us in Year 2 will be following a unit of work on a theme that focuses on 'Grouping and Classifying Materials'.

This unit of work is part of the International Primary Curriculum. This curriculum sets out very clearly what children will learn – the learning goals – in three different areas:

1. The subjects of the curriculum. The learning goals for each of these subjects are at least as challenging as anything taught in the curriculum in your child's own country. In many cases, the learning goals are more challenging.
2. Personal development – the characteristics which will help children become more responsible, independent learners.
3. International understanding – which will help children develop both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

Each unit of work is based around specific targets derived from the learning goals for one or more of the subjects.

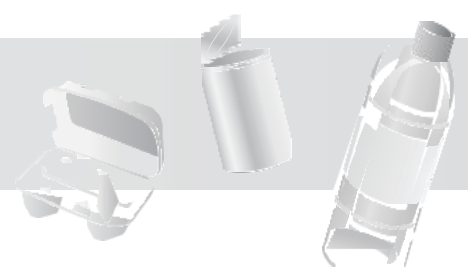
During this unit we will be focusing on Science, Technology and International.

In Science, we'll be finding out:

- What objects are made of
- How we use different materials
- How to test materials
- How materials are the same or different
- How we can group materials
- How to choose materials for specific uses
- Where materials come from



WHAT'S IT MADE



In Technology, we'll be finding out:

- How to plan and design a classroom makeover

In International, we'll be finding out:

- About the materials used to build our homes
- Why plastic waste is a global problem and what we can do about it

All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you.

Talk with your child about the different materials used to make everyday objects, including metal, plastic, pottery, rubber, textiles, wood, leather and glass. Discuss why we use different materials for different purposes, e.g. we use bricks to build houses because bricks are strong; we use glass to make windows because we can see through glass, etc.

If your child has some work to research, please help them, but without actually doing the work. If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest is most important.

By the end of the unit, we hope your child has achieved all of the learning targets. We hope they have had an enjoyable time in the classroom. And we hope you have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm. If you have any comments or questions about your child's learning, please get in touch.

