

Welcome to Year 2!

Autumn Term 2023

Welcome to Year Two. We are really looking forward to teaching your children and looking forward to a fun-filled, productive year ahead. Mrs Thomas will teach the class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings and Mrs Williams will teach on Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Riley will be the teaching assistant working with us every morning and she will also teach music on a Wednesday afternoon. Miss Mellor or Mrs. Atkinson will help us in the afternoons.

This newsletter includes lots of useful information about the topics we are studying, our routines and some key days and dates.



History

'Do they have the 'X' Factor?'

In history, we will be learning about significant individuals in the past who have contributed to International achievements including Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. We will be learning about events beyond living memory that are significant Nationally, including 'The Great Fire of London', 'The Gunpowder Plot' and 'Remembrance Day'. We will make comparisons between different time periods.

Science

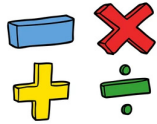
'How magnificent are materials?'

In our physics topic, we will be identifying and comparing the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.

Literacy

As well as lots of reading and writing based around our topic, we will also be reading and writing stories, information texts and poetry. Our grammar work will include looking at different verb tenses, sentence types, adjectives to describe nouns, adverbs, commas in a list and conjunctions to add detail to sentences. We will also be enjoying our 'Paddington' class novel written by Michael Bond.





Numeracy

During numeracy lessons there will be lots of activities that use knowledge of place value, number bonds to 20 (jigsaw numbers) e.g. $16 + 4$ and to 100 (e.g. $60+40$) and recognising odd and even numbers. In Year 2 we also deepen our knowledge of times tables facts. $\times 2, \times 5, \times 10$. If your child does not know instantly their number bonds or times tables, now is the time to start practising them! Your child has now been set up on TT Rockstars and this is a great online tool for practising times tables which can be accessed from home. Log in details for TT Rockstars can be found in your child's green reading record.

In topic maths, we will be reading, writing and comparing numbers to 100 and using place value and number facts to solve problems. We will be adding and subtracting numbers to 100 and using the inverse operations to check calculations and solve missing number problems. In geometry, we will be exploring the properties of shapes, identifying and describing the properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes.



Computing

We will be using iPads, tablets and laptops in a range of subjects. In computing, we will be learning about different aspects of e-safety, including sending and receiving emails. We will also be creating simple graphs from data collected.

ART and DT

In art this term, we will be experimenting with different tools and surfaces, recording our experiences and feelings. Our work will link to the Gunpowder plot in which we will be using pencils, pastels and crayons. We will also create patterns using different printing techniques such as pressing, rubbing, stamping. In DT, we will be making our own vehicles.



RE



In RE we will be finding out about the Bible as a communication from God and asking why it is such a special book. We will also look at the importance of sacred books in other religions.

RSHE

This term we will be exploring caring and respectful relationships and how to keep ourselves safe. We will be looking at the characteristics of healthy family life.

Music



In music we will be learning about pitch, notation, pulse, rhythm and tempo through playing a range of instruments and singing songs.

PE

Our PE lessons this term will focus on high and low movements in gymnastics; bat and ball skills in games and dance. Our PE days are **Mondays** and **Thursdays** but please try to ensure your child has a suitable kit (including trainers and a warm jumper) in school every day, just in case additional opportunities arise. We will send kits home for washing at the end of each half term (October and Christmas).



Other Information

Please prioritise time for **daily reading** with your child and record this in your child's green Reading Record book. Your child will be given home reading books each week and in addition to this they may borrow a book from the class reading corner if they would like to. ***(Please note: Some children will continue to read the Little Wandle phonics ebooks as one of their 3 reading books. You will receive a separate letter if this applies to your child.)*** When the green reading record book indicates that books have been read, they will be changed on your child's reading day. Ideally children should read (at least 5 times a week) a range of fiction, non-fiction texts and poetry. However, please remember that all reading counts! You might encourage your child to read one of their own books at home; read and follow a recipe; enjoy an extract from a magazine or have fun reading different street or road signs. Whatever your child has read we'd love to hear about it. We will be checking reading records each day and giving stamps when any type of home reading is recorded.

Weekly spellings will be set on a **Friday** and tested the following **Thursday**. Please learn your weekly spellings and Year 2 Common Exception Words carefully.

As part of a new whole-school initiative, weekly x tables tests will take place every Monday morning. Please help your child to learn their tables off by heart, beginning with the 2x tables. The test will be strictly timed (3 minutes). When children achieve 20/25 three weeks running, they will move up a level.

Literacy and/or Numeracy (and sometimes topic) homework will be set on a **Wednesday** to be handed in the following **Wednesday**. A mix of paper-based and online activities will be provided. Log-in details for websites used such as **My Maths** and **SPaG.com** can be found on the inside front cover of your child's green Reading Record book. Children can use these resources anytime if they choose to, even when work hasn't been set. Some previous parents have found it useful to take photos of these login details on their phones. New **Seesaw** login details for this new academic year will also be sent out.

Additional guidance and information for homework tasks will be given when necessary.

If you are unsure of any maths strategies used in school please come in and ask us to explain, as methods are sometimes different from how we learnt at school.

Uniform

Please help your child and us, by naming (even if just in biro) **EVERY ITEM OF SCHOOL UNIFORM**, including coats, shoes, pumps and all those gloves, hats and scarves... they get everywhere! If an item has a name in/on it we can help to promptly return it.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Year two will be running the Macmillan Coffee morning on **Friday 29th September**. We will lead an assembly and then assist with various stalls and activities in the hall. We welcome you all to join us for this. More information will be sent out a little nearer the time.



Please continue to encourage your child to come into the school building in the mornings independently. The children have made a great start and settled very well into Year 2!

If you do have any concerns or questions about your child please do not hesitate to contact us. **We are here to help!** We would greatly appreciate it if parents could speak to us in the morning **before 8.50am** so that we can focus on settling the children into class and start the day promptly. Alternatively, you are welcome to speak to us **after 3.35pm** when all the children have been safely dismissed by a member of staff.

Mrs Williams and Mrs Thomas

