



Year 2 Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Dear All,

Welcome to the new school year. We hope that you all had a wonderful summer break. Please find in this letter details about our class and the exciting term which lies ahead.

Mrs Younger will be teaching the class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Wednesday afternoon Mrs Younger will take her PPA (Preparation, planning and assessment time) and the class will be taught by Mrs Latham. Mrs Astley will then teach the remainder of the week on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Latham will be our Year 2 Teaching Assistant on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Hall will be our class Teaching Assistant on Thursday and Friday.

English

The teaching of reading, spelling and writing, appropriate to the children's ability, takes place regularly within daily Phonics lessons or class English lessons. In addition to this, the children will have a guided reading session with the class teacher once a week.

Whilst children are still on the RWinc phonics scheme they will come home with two reading books each week. One will be a specific RWinc book based on their current phonics ability and they should be able to read this fairly fluently and with little support. The second book will be a coloured book band book which may contain some tricky words which they may need help with. Once your child has finished the RWinc scheme then they will have 2 reading books at their coloured book band level. We also have Bug Club online reading which will provide you with additional reading material at your child's reading level. Bug Club also provides ready-made comprehension questions and is a fun way to check your child's understanding of the text. Children will be able to change their home reading books during their guided reading session each week but can of course change them earlier if need be. Please make sure your child has their books and diary in school with them every day. If their book needs changing at a different time in the week, please encourage your child to take responsibility for choosing their new book. Please do bear with us as we assess the children's reading over the first few weeks of term. It takes a little time to check their current reading level and allocate books. We will get this up and running as quickly as possible.

We recommend that you hear your child read regularly. Children who read for just 10 minutes 4-5 times a week make good progress with their reading and their writing. Please continue to use the Reading Diary as before. It is very important that the diary is filled in as it provides a crucial link between you and us and helps us all to support and further your child's reading. We will continue to run our reading incentive this year. If a child has 4 entries in their reading diary each week they will receive a reading sticker from the teacher during their guided reading session. Reading a variety of texts is very beneficial, as is reading texts to your child at a higher reading level than they can currently read themselves. Children need to be able to understand what a text is about as well as just reading the words. Therefore, it is always great to ask your child about the story and the characters as part of your home reading.

The children will be sent home weekly spellings each Friday. They will be tested on these words on the following Thursday. Please help your child learn these spellings and their meanings at home. It is always a good idea to recap previous weekly spellings occasionally, too.

Maths

Our work in Maths includes lots of oral work and number games to support the children's learning. This term we will be covering the following areas:

- Place Value: Making and regrouping 2 digit numbers.
- Counting on and back in tens from any number.
- Ordering and comparing numbers to 100.
- Estimating numbers on a number line.
- Number bonds to 10 and 100.
- Checking calculations and missing number problems.
- Money: making combinations and finding change.
- Estimating and measuring length, mass, temperature and capacity.

Throughout the year we will be focusing on our 2, 5 and 10 times tables including the associated division facts (children that are confident with these can move on to the 3s and 4s).

Science

Our Science activities this term include work on habitats and materials. We will be studying different habitats around the school grounds and thinking about what might live there and what they might eat. In our materials unit we will be identifying, testing and comparing the properties of everyday materials such as plastic, metal, wood and rubber.

Computing

We will cover 2 units of work over the term which will involve coding and using email with a focus on e-safety.

History

We will start the year with our history topic – The Great Fire of London. This exciting topic will include lots of research and discovery about the event.

Geography

We will be moving on to our Geography topic 'Why don't penguins need to fly?'. In this topic the children will be recognising and describing the key geographical features of different environments, specifically the Antarctic and the Sahara.

RE

This term we will be learning about Religious leaders and Christmas celebrations.

P.S.H.E

We will continue to follow the Jigsaw scheme of work. This term's themes are 'Being in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference.'

Music

We will be exploring different types of music, listening and appraising songs as well as singing and using a range of instruments.

Art

Our topic for this term is 3D sculptures. We will be studying various artists and using their work to inspire our own sculptures using a range of materials.

D&T

We will be learning about mechanisms specifically wheels and axles and making our own fire engines to link with our Great Fire of London topic.

Library

We will visit the library every Monday afternoon. Please make sure your child brings their book into school on this day to change it as we will not be able to use the library on any other days of the week.

P.E

We will have P.E on a **Wednesday** and **Friday**. Please make sure your child has a full Maple P.E. kit including suitable trainers which they can keep in school. As the weather cools children can wear an appropriate tracksuit – either a plain and unbranded tracksuit top and bottom, or a Maple school hoodie and suitable leggings/jogging bottoms. No football team or high fashion tracksuits should be worn. Please also ensure that ALL kit is clearly named, otherwise it is easily lost.

We will also continue to be actively involved with the ‘daily run’ – 2 laps in Year 2. Please ensure that children have appropriate footwear for the daily run.

Home-study:

English

Children will be encouraged to continue reading to an adult on a daily basis at home and record their progress in their reading diary.

A recommended booklist for Year 2 can be found on the school website and in the back of the reading diary to support your choice of reading texts at home.

The children will be expected to practise their weekly spellings (sent home on a Friday and tested the following Thursday). Spellings will be stuck into their books which must be returned to school each Thursday. Daily work in class will support the learning of these spellings too.

Maths

Each Friday, a short engaging task will be set. This may take the form of a game, practical task, written activity or ‘Online’ maths activity (using the ‘MyMaths’ website*).

Homework details will be added to Google Classroom every Friday. A new Year 2 class has been set up on Google Classroom. If you are unable to access Google Classroom please let the office know as soon as possible.

Each half term a Science based homework will be set in place of the usual maths homework. Details of this will be posted on Google Classroom nearer the time.

**N.B: A reminder of your child’s ‘MyMaths’ or ‘BugClub’ login can be requested via email from the school office.*

All of these activities are for you and your child to work on together. These activities will be linked to our class work in order to support the children’s understanding.

Other information

The children will need a **named** water bottle. Please remind your child to bring this home daily for cleaning and refilling. Please only put water in the bottle.

There will be the annual Infants Christmas Production at the end of term. This is always a very busy time and we thank you in advance for your help with costumes and props! Details will follow after half term.

At the start and end of each day, parents should drop off and collect children from the school playground and not at the classroom door as this area gets very congested. The start of the day is a very busy time;

if you need to talk to one of the team briefly then please try to do this at the end of the day if possible. Alternatively, arrange a suitable time via the school office. At the end of the day we will dismiss the children from the classroom door.

If your child's usual responsible adult (known to the class teachers) is unable to collect your child please ensure the adult collecting your child knows the individual password that was set up in Reception, as they will be asked for this before your child can be dismissed by the class teacher.

Finally, we will put notes or messages from us on Google Classroom and/or Monday messages. Please remember to check these regularly.

With thanks for your support,

The Year 2 team

Mrs Younger, Mrs Astley, Mrs Latham and Mrs Hall

Key Dates

Tuesday 5th September 2.30pm – Start of year meeting

Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th October – Parent's Consultations

Friday 20th October – Staff Training Day (the school will be closed)

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October – Half Term

Tuesday 5th December 2pm – Infant production to parents, carers and pre-school children

Wednesday 6th December and Thursday 7th December 6pm – Infant production to parents.

Wednesday 20th December 1.30pm – End of term