

Autumn Term 2021 – Curriculum Letter for children in Year 2

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. The children have settled in well and worked hard this week, learning lots of new skills for their learning. They are getting used to the new routines as well as the important jobs and responsibilities of Year 2. We have a very busy term ahead, with the Harvest Festival this half term and the Phonics check and hopefully the Nativity next half term. Below is a list of what we hope to cover this term.

School Values:



Our Core School Value this term is INDEPENDENCE. In Year 2 to develop the children's independence they all have a school or classroom job to complete each day. They will be responsible for their own classroom equipment and taking care of our classroom. They are responsible for their own independent learning and have their own special book to present this work in. They may also have the significant responsibility of being a House Captain.

Phonics and Spelling

Due to the COVID- 19 school closure, the phonics check that the Year 2's would have taken in Year 1 has been postponed until this autumn term. The children will be taking the phonics check in the second half term of the Autumn term. The children will continue to have phonics lessons focusing on catching up on any missed learning in phases 2-5. They will also continue to have phonics packs which will be issued in the next two weeks. Please continue to practise these with your child.

English

Throughout this term we will be covering a range of text types in our writing sessions. This Half Term we will be learning about Postcards and Letters and writing our own alien poems.

After half term we will be getting ready for our Nativity, so will be practising lots of our speaking and listening skills. We will also be learning about Information texts, Quest stories and Poems based on a theme. As well as our writing sessions we will also have weekly Reading Comprehension, Grammar and (joined-up) Handwriting sessions. We will have daily Spelling and Guided Reading sessions.

Maths

This term our learning will be focusing mainly on Place Value and our calculation methods for Addition, Subtraction and Multiplication. Throughout the term we will be learning how to tell the time to within 15 minutes. We will also be learning how to count money and how to calculate change.

We will also have weekly Mental Maths exercises and later in the second half term will begin to learn our times tables.

Science:

Over this term we will be exploring the useful properties of materials and taking part in a range of investigations to test materials for their purposes. We will also be exploring materials for their properties focusing especially on their absorbency, elasticity and flexibility.

Music:

The children will learn about different types of sounds and notations. They will be learning many new songs and rehearsing known songs for our Harvest Assembly and Nativity.

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Computing:

We will start the term reminding ourselves of some important e-safety rules: not sharing our username and password and remembering to logoff when finished.

We will then be starting to learn about computer programmes and algorithms. We will be using a variety of programming apps and software to help the children understand how computer programmes run and follow a sequence of instructions. We will also be learning what to do when a programme goes wrong.

In the second half term we will be researching, designing and creating our own computer games and interactive quizzes (in conjunction with our Concept Curriculum).

Concept Curriculum:

We are so excited to share our concept curriculum for this term! For more information see the Topic Map.

- Curriculum Content = Space
- Concepts = fear, consequences and creativity
- Enquiry question = How can we manage our fear of the unknown?

Wellbeing Curriculum:

PE:

Please make sure your child has their Mile a Day shoes in school every day. Every item of clothing in the PE kit must be named. Your child has PE on Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

One session will focus on PE activities that further develop their balance, coordination and agility as well as their personal, social and cognitive abilities such as following instructions; working positively within a team; challenging ourselves and supporting and encouraging others.

The other session, which will be run by an external coach (Joanne), for this half term will be Volleyball and after half term they will be learning basic gymnastics.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Emotional Development):

As well as being woven throughout the curriculum and enhanced during regular 'well-being' assemblies, the children will participate in a weekly PSHE lesson. They will follow the 'Jigsaw' scheme and this term will complete activities related to 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'. These lessons will specifically focus on enhancing each child's ability to recognise that we are all special and unique, developing a positive sense of themselves and others and learning to manage their feelings and behaviour to ensure that they work within our school rules.

RE (Religious Education):

RE is also woven throughout our concept curriculum and enhanced in specific RE lessons. Children will develop their knowledge and understanding of different religions, beliefs and practices, including festivals. They will retell and explore the meanings of some religious and moral stories and recognise some of the symbols and actions that express a religious community's way of life. A significant focus of our wellbeing curriculum is identifying similarities and celebrating difference.

This term our focus will be Christianity. We will start by learning to retell Bible stories that show kindness and to explore how this makes Christians behave towards other people. After half term we will learn to reflect on the Christmas story and the reason for Jesus' birth.

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REMEMBER!!

- We have PE on a **Wednesday** and **Friday** afternoon. Please ensure the children's PE kit is in school on those days (a spare set of clothes should be kept in school every day) and that all items of your child's PE kit are clearly named. Mile-a-Day shoes should also be kept in school every day and labelled or clearly identifiable by your child.

- On **Fridays** we will have our weekly spelling test. Spelling book should be handed in. New spelling words will be handed out on **the same day (Friday)** and spelling lists will also be uploaded to Microsoft Teams.

- English and Maths Homework books will be handed out on **Wednesdays** and collected in on the following **Monday**. Homework will be uploaded to Microsoft Teams to reduce the amount paper used in school. Any paper resources you will require will still be sent home alongside their homework books.

- **Library Day = Friday**

- To consolidate their work the children will be challenged with morning work starting when they arrive in school before the first lesson. Please ensure your child is in school on time.

- **Maths targets** – These will be sent home in the next few weeks and ideally should be practised every day (little and often, 5 minutes max!). It is the responsibility of your child to hand in their target card when they are ready to be checked. They will need to demonstrate the skill on three consecutive occasions in school.

- **Reading Books**- Year 2 will have their books changed on Mondays and Thursdays. They will receive two books on each change. It is good practise for children to re-read books that they have already read.

- It is extremely important that your child **reads every day, at the start of Year 2 it is important that they still read aloud to an adult**. When your child is more fluent and on purple book band and above, you should also ask them to read a section quietly in their head and discuss it afterwards to check their understanding. You can support your child further by reading to your child, sharing books and talking about the story. In Year 2 it is important that your child starts reading for a longer period of time so they build stamina for reading longer texts. **PLEASE** remember to update the reading diary as we do check these each day!!!

- **Keyrings** – due to the lack of space in individual trays, please can there be no more than **1 small keyring** on your child's bookbag.

And finally, please join us on Monday 20th September 2021 at 4:15pm for a virtual session where we will talk about the year ahead specific to Year 2 and you will have an opportunity to ask lots of questions. Further details will be sent to you shortly. We do hope to see all of you there!

We are looking forward to working together and an exciting year ahead!

Miss Beeks