

Year Two Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2018

Welcome to Year Two! We are looking forward to getting to know your children and learning together. Year Two are set for an exciting and packed Autumn term and we are keen to build on the learning journey the children experienced at the end of Year One. The children have made a great start and have taken well to the higher expectations for independence skills, for example, they are now organising their book bags and reading books by themselves each morning.



Reading remains a great focus and children are expected to read each day at home and in school. This will take the form of Shared Reading in class, reading to adults and peers and individual one to one reading. We are focusing upon deep understanding and one Year Two objective is to re-read texts, therefore your child will not be changing their reading book until they have read to an adult in school. Once they have finished a book, they will tick their name in the reading folder to let an adult know they are ready to discuss their book. Then they will continue to re-read the same book until they are called to read to an adult, this may not be for a few days. Children will also have a "Choosing Book" which they may self-select and change as often as they like. They will also continue to bring home a library book to share and enjoy. These will be changed on a Tuesday most weeks, so please make sure they are in school then. Please hear your child read as often as you can at home, at least three times a week, asking and answering questions about the text together. If you are able to support reading in school, please contact us as we are always on the lookout for more opportunities for the children to read and share their learning.

In PSHE we will be discussing new beginnings and explore who is in charge. After half term we will investigate getting on and falling out and celebrating and recognising differences. The circle time programme will continue, giving children opportunities to explore their emotions and how they can be expressed and how they can be best understood by others. We will be continuing to celebrate personal successes and talk through worries in a safe, supportive environment.





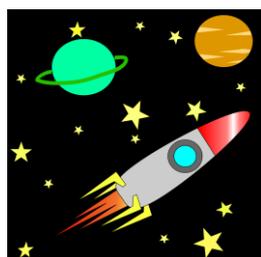
In English we will be studying various texts related to our Queens topic. We will be consolidating the use of capital letters, full stops, exclamation marks and question marks from Year One and there will be a great emphasis upon handwriting, both speed and legibility. Children will be extending their use of conjunctions to include a wider range of co-ordinating conjunctions, such as 'but' and 'or'. They will continue to develop expanded noun phrases and investigate how to change adjectives into adverbs by adding the suffix -ly. They will apply these skills when writing setting and character descriptions linked to our texts. We will be writing alternative endings to stories, developing a more consistent use of present and past tenses. We will write letters and diaries to respond to the texts. During the second half of term we will be exploring a "Journey into the Unknown" topic, considering different viewpoints. Children will also read and write poems on the theme of Angels. They will be orally rehearsing, planning, writing and editing both independently and as part of a group. They will evaluate and improve their writing through re-drafting.

In Maths, the children will deepen their understanding of place value and the four operations. They will be continuing to solve problems and explain their reasoning, using concrete resources and models and images to support their understanding. Counting forwards and backwards and in groups of two, five and ten will be a daily focus to develop speed of processing. If you are able to play number games at home with your child, this will build their confidence and help speed up mental computations. Children will count, read, order and compare numbers up to 100 in numerals. They will use the $<$ $>$ and $=$ signs. They will be applying their knowledge of the number bonds of 20 to solve problems fluently. There is a large focus upon using concrete apparatus and pictorial representations, particularly the number line and explaining how they know they are correct, making links to previous learning.



Science work will focus upon a study of humans and other animals, considering the features needed for life and exploring life cycles. After half term, we will explore the topic of materials and explore the properties of a range of materials considering their use in everyday life. This will link with our topic about space and children will be considering the best materials to use to design a spacecraft.

For the first half of term we will be linking much learning around our topic of "A Royal Adventure". In History, we will be exploring a thematic study of three queens and how their roles and reigns were similar and different. We will explore Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. In English we will be reading a range of texts based on Royalty, including "The Queen's Hat" by Steve Anthony, "The Queen's Knickers" by Richard Allen and "The Paper Bag Princess" by Robert Munsch. This will culminate in a Royal Garden Tea Party the children will plan and hold. In Design Technology they will design and make well balanced savoury snacks to be eaten at a Garden Party, considering regional ingredients and food hygiene. The children will design and write invitations applying their English skills and making links to their reading. In music we will be exploring rhythm and beat and composing pieces to perform at our Garden Party. In Art we will be exploring the work of Andy Goldsworthy and creating artworks in his style, using the rich outdoor learning environment the school offers.



After half term our topic will be "A Journey into the Unknown", based upon a space theme. We will be reading the book "The Way Back Home" by Oliver Jeffers and linking our science studies to design our own space crafts using suitable materials. Our art project will be linked to a study of the artist Jackson Pollock and we will be creating mixed media mood landscapes in his style. Linked to our study of Angels in RE, we will also be moulding clay Angels in Art. In Music we will be exploring the "Planets Suite" by Holst, considering duration. In Geography we will consider our local environment and make suggestions to improving the physical geography of the village, considering parking issues.

Each week the children will have one period of PE and one period of games. In PE we will be exploring rocking and rolling and balancing. Games will be led by CM Sports and the children will develop stamina and agility while learning core skills of football and hockey. PE and Games will usually take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, but please ensure your child has their kit in school all week, as these times to change from time to time. Your child will need a sweatshirt or hoodie and tracksuit bottoms as the weather turns cooler and spare socks for those wearing tights!



In RE we will be exploring creation stories, comparing and contrasting Hindu and Christian beliefs. After half term we will consider the role of Angels at Christmas. Children will communicate, apply, enquire, contextualise and evaluate the concepts studied.

In Computing will be considering internet safety and how to search effectively. We will be developing our skills in coding and after half term we will be using and creating databases, linking to our topic where possible.



Home Learning - your child will bring home spellings to learn over the week, with a test on Friday. They should practise these spellings and read each day at home please. Your child will also bring home a home learning book with details of home learning and dates to return to school. For longer projects, the home learning may be over a series of weeks. If you have any queries about home learning, please speak to your child's teacher directly.

As we help your child build independence please encourage them to take responsibility for their own belongings, by being involved in packing their own bags and lining up by themselves on the playground before school.

We hope your children will be very happy in Year Two and enjoy sharing their learning with you. If you have any queries or worries please don't hesitate to speak to your child's teacher, we are available at the end of the day most days, or contact the office to make an appointment. Please come and see what your child has been up to at our regular "Look Around" evenings - the first is on the 1st October. This is a chance to come into the classroom and look at your child's work and their learning environment with them and celebrate their learning. Class teachers will be present to celebrate with you.

We look forward to working closely with you to support your child's learning journey,

The Year Two Team

Mrs Armstrong, Miss Culley, Mrs Matthews and Mrs Wells