



Year 2 Curriculum Letter- Autumn 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to Year 2! We are delighted to have the children back in school and are very much looking forward to working with them over the course of this school year. The purpose of this letter is to keep you informed about the learning the children will be doing during the Autumn Term.

Thematic Curriculum:

Our new Theme is 'School Days'. This is an extremely exciting theme, which allows the children to learn about how the key differences between schools in the past and school today. Throughout the theme, the children will learn what school was like in Victorian times as well as the key physical and human features of the school and its environment. Alongside the core knowledge of the theme, the children will also have the opportunity to engage in 'memorable experiences' such as meeting members of the school community to talk about school life in the past and visiting the school kitchen to see what happens 'behind the scenes'. There will be many opportunities for children to display their artistic talents and flair for drama within the theme as well. Another memorable part of this theme will be the development of the children's Design and Technology skills when they create their very own 'healthy school dish'!



English

During this term, the children will be reading and writing across a range of different text types and genres. Within our main English lessons, the children will initially be focusing on the traditional tale of 'Little Red Riding Hood', which is always a favourite for the children. This will give the children opportunities to write a character description as well as to practice their accurate use of capital letters and full stops, awareness of tense and the inclusion of the language of time (first, then etc.) Linking closely with our Autumn Theme 'School Days', the children will also be studying a range of non-fiction texts, such as information texts and recounts so they can write about either school life today or school life from the past. Later in the term, the children will have the opportunity to study Poetry by enjoying the classic poem 'Please Mrs Butler' through performing the poetry as well as responding to their favourite parts of the poem.



Throughout the term, the focus will be on the accurate use of capital letters and full stops, awareness of tense and the inclusion of conjunctions (and, but, because, so, when etc.). We shall continue to encourage the children's enthusiasm and independence when writing. They will be learning to spell with common spelling patterns and irregular High Frequency words. Basic skills will include a focus on phonics, reading comprehension and handwriting. We will continue to use the *Read, Write Inc. Phonics Programme* to teach phonics skills as well as ensuring that the children have additional daily reading sessions within the classroom.

Mathematics

At the start of this term, we are continuing our exciting way of teaching Maths across the school. Maths lessons will include; counting up to 100 and beyond; counting on or back in ones or tens from any number; place value; ordering; addition and subtraction, including money problems. There will be a focus on times tables 2, 5 and 10 during this term. We will continually be solving problems involving understanding of numbers and operations, where the children's mathematical skills will be developed and challenged through their explanations and reasoning. We will also be continuing to strengthen children's instant recall of taught facts and mental calculation.

We will be ensuring to cover any 'gaps in learning' from Year 1 as well as ensuring that the children are 'challenged and stretched' as appropriate.

Science

Excitingly, the children will be focusing on two brand new Science units this term: 'Habitats Here' as well as 'Materials Matter'. Within the first half term, the children will be studying 'Habitats Here' and will explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead and things that have never been alive! As usual, there will be numerous opportunities for the children to take part in practical science investigation so that the scientific enquiry is led in a fun and engaging way. Following 'Habitats Here', the children will study 'Materials Matter', which focuses on finding out how the shapes of solid objects can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. Again, we will be carrying out scientific investigations with the children, so they see this in action!



Physical Education – PE

These terms activities will include Athletics and Gymnastics, which will take place on **Thursdays and Fridays**. As a school, we have made the decision that to maximise learning time, children can come to school in their PE kits on PE days. We request that children wear their school jumpers or fleeces over the top of their PE kit. Please ensure they are wearing appropriate kit for the weather (leggings/joggers when it is cold or wet).



Religious Education – RE

Within Religious Education, the children will be exploring the following key questions over the course of the term:

- 'Christianity and kindness'
- 'What can we learn from sacred books?'



Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

This term, our Jigsaw unit is called 'Being me in my world', children will learn about how they can share, what makes them different and why it is important to celebrate these differences. Alongside this, we will have a focus on anti-bullying and friendship.



Home learning

- We expect the children to read their banded reading book at least **3 times** a week and record this in their reading diaries. The class teacher will monitor these on a weekly basis. Please also support your child in reading the High Frequency Words in their word purse (if they have one).
- Children can also access Reading eggs and TT Rockstarz to support their learning.
- In conjunction with the 50 Things to do before you are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ by the National Trust, children have the opportunity to complete activities as part of the **Inspire Challenge Awards**. Once children complete a challenge, children will receive a sticker with the specific logo of the challenge to collect in their booklet. At the end of the year, if all challenges have been completed, children will receive their year group specific badge at a special award ceremony.



As always, many thanks for your continued support. We are all very excited about the learning ahead during this term. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks,

Mrs Banner and Mrs Reed