

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:

Autumn Term 1



Elephant



Class

Dear families,

Welcome back to another exciting school year! We are thrilled to have your children back with us and are eager to dive into a year filled with learning and fun. This year is particularly special as we have moved into a brand-new building and classroom, which will provide a fresh and inspiring space for our students to explore and grow. We can't wait to see how this new environment will enhance our activities and experiences. We will be using the CUSP curriculum to deliver many of our subjects as it is underpinned by evidence, research and cognitive science. The CUSP curriculum is designed to provide a rich and engaging learning experience for students by focusing on key concepts and skills across various subjects. It emphasises building a strong foundation in core areas while allowing flexibility to adapt to students' needs and interests.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to a fantastic year ahead!



Our



topic



question:

Who are you as a learner?

Important events/diary dates:

PE Days: Tuesday and Thursday

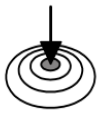
Monday 23rd September: Beach and Sitting Volleyball sessions

Tuesday 1st October: Great Fire of London workshop at The Bakers Livery Hall

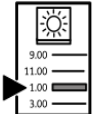
Monday 7th October: Year 2 Parent Reading Workshop from 9:00-9:30am

Thursday, 17 October: Year 2 Poetry Performance from 9:10-9:30am

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:



Core



Book



Challenge

"Reading is a passport to countless adventures."

Mary Pope Osborn

The Core Book Challenge is back! This year we have 30 new, entertaining and thought-provoking books. This diverse selection of books will foster reading for pleasure at home and spark great conversations. When children have read one of the core books they will write up a reflection on what they thought about the book. We will have a special assembly to launch this year's Core Book Challenge. Each time a child reaches a 10-book milestone, they will receive a badge!

English:

In English, our key texts are **Grandad's Islands** by Benji Davies, **Aesop's Fables - The Goose that laid the Golden Eggs** by Aesop and **Mrs Noah's Pockets** by Jackie Morris. The range of themes we will be discussing over this half term are: loss; greed and patience; kindness, inclusion and hope. These quality texts will support children in several ways. They will encourage children to share their personal responses and identify synonyms. Additionally, the texts will help them develop inference skills through retrieving information from the text, pictures and the gap in the information. This will support the children to articulate the specific evidence needed to support their inferences.

Here are some inferences question you can ask when you read any book at home:

- Before:
 - What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
 - Where do you think the story takes place? How do you know? (Encourage your child to look at the illustrations on the book's cover).
- During:
 - What is happening in the picture?
 - What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen? Why or why not?
 - What might happen next?

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:

-Can you explain why_____ ?

Writing

Children will be developing their knowledge of different descriptive techniques. They will select precise adjectives to use in expanded noun phrases, and common conjunctions to extend their sentences when writing vivid **character descriptions**. Children will build on their **poetry knowledge** from last year by making connections between poems and explaining the structure of a poem. Lastly, they will be practising the **structure of narratives** through orally recounting a story and then retelling the story in the correct order in their writing, using a range of descriptive devices to describe characters and settings.

Phonics

Children will continue to deepen their phonics knowledge as this phonological awareness is essential to grow fluent readers and writers. We are focused on improving reading fluency for all pupils. It's important for children to hear stories read with expression and to understand how full stops signal where to pause. Children will continue learning to read longer words, known as **multisyllabic words**. When decoding unfamiliar words, it is helpful to break them into smaller, manageable chunks. All pupils are working at their own reading abilities, and we provide support through individualised fast track intervention.

Please ensure your child brings in their reading wallet everyday so that they can participate in reading opportunities with an adult using their own levelled books.

Maths

In Maths, our first unit is **Place Value using numbers to 100**.

Children will deepen their ability to read and understand numbers to 100. They will use their growing understanding of place value to help them sort, compare and order numbers. Children will use part-whole models and place value grids to show **partitioning of**

numbers into tens (10's) and ones (1's), and use these to support their reasoning when comparing and ordering. Children will begin to develop their ability to count **forwards and backwards efficiently in steps of 2, 3, 5, and 10**.

Tens	Ones

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:

Our next unit covers **Adding and Subtraction**. Children will build upon the number bonds to 10 that they will have learned in Year 1. **Number bonds to 10 are key mathematical facts that need to be understood and instantly recalled for children to develop their number sense.** Children will be introduced to writing fact families of equations, and begin to understand the relationship between addition and subtraction operations. As a result, children learn to use the inverse of one operation to check calculations using the other operation. Children will also be introduced to the challenging concept of 'make 10' to aid mental calculations. Children will have lots of opportunities to practice this concept using concrete, pictorial and abstract activities as repetition is key to mastery!

Science

In science, we will be exploring the topic **Living things and their habitats**. Children will be able to explain what makes something alive and not alive, using the MRS GREN acronym.

Children will work scientifically by observing macro and micro habitats, identifying plants and animals that live there and asking appropriate questions. Children will build a broader

understanding of how living things are connected through food chains and discuss why plants and animals need each other.

Characteristics of living things

Movement
Respiration
Sensitivity

Growth
Reproduction
Excretion
Nutrition

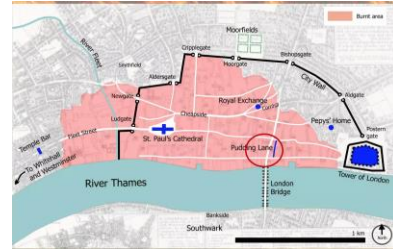
MRS GREN



History

History is the study of the past, where children will learn about people, places, events and changes. The event we will be studying beyond living memory is **The Great Fire of London**. We will be exploring themes of: **community**- how the community tried to put the fire out and how some people failed and fled the community; **power**- who had the power to make decisions, or not, and how London had the power to rebuild as a result of the fire, and **knowledge**- the knowledge people learnt at the time and the changes made as a result of the fire e.g. Building materials, Fire protection, Iconic building and monuments and Birth of insurance. We will deepen our learning by attending a workshop at Bakers Livery Hall and learn more about how the fire started and how it must have felt.

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:



Art and Design



In Art, Children will be developing and applying their previously acquired **drawing** skills. They will use a range of marks to represent mood and movement. Children will start to explore shape and texture through expressive mark making in response to a piece of music, descriptive language and artwork the Waves (2021) by Beth Krommes. Children will further deepen their understanding of mood and movement in our **painting** topic by using colour and line to explore feelings and space. Music and Composition VII (1913) by Wassily Kandinsky will inspire children's responses.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

In PSHE, through the topic "**Being Me in My World**" children will explore their role in the school community, learn about their rights and responsibilities, and develop important social skills like empathy and teamwork. The unit also encourages children to set personal goals and understand how their actions can impact others. We look forward to seeing them grow in confidence and build a strong sense of belonging!

Religious Education (RE)

In RE, we will be exploring the question '**Who is Jewish and what do they believe?**'. This investigation will enable children to think about what might be found in a Jewish home and how these objects link to the Jewish way of life. There is a focus on the mezuzah, the belief in one God, Shabbat and Chanukah.

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:

As always, please inform us of any festivals or celebrations that are special to you and your family this term so we can participate and learn about sacred times.

Computing

Children will be learning Computing with our Junior Jam specialist, Tharek. This term, they'll use iPads and GarageBand to **learn basic songwriting skills**. First, the class will create a song together, then students will work in pairs or small groups to compose their own short pieces using various instruments and sounds from the app.

Music

Children will be learning Music with our Junior Jam specialist, Teodora. The focus will be on four main areas: singing, listening, composing, and musicianship. They'll start with **simple songs, chants, and rhymes, progressing to call-and-response songs with increasing complexity**. They will also listen to popular and traditional music, create sound effects, and use body percussion. Additionally, children will join a weekly singing assembly as part of the school community.

This term we will be doing the following:

Weekly PE lessons	Tuesday and Thursday at the Sports Hall
Spelling	Monday (Spell check Friday)
RWI reading book and RWI bookbag Book	Weekly- mostly every 3 days (groups defer)
Core Reading Challenge	Friday
Class Library book	Children choose when they would like to change this (weekly)
Give Me 10	Every Thursday 8am (During Breakfast Club) and 8:50am
Celebration Assembly	Every Friday 3pm (no entry after 3pm)

Homework:

Re-establishing a home learning routine this year will support your child and give them valuable extra practice to strengthen the skills they're learning at school. Year 2's home learning will involve weekly spellings and daily reading of your child's phonics book. The additional books in their book bags can also

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:

be used for home reading. Optional maths activities can be accessed via the link on the school's website.

Our half-term home project will be launched soon and needs to be **submitted in the last week of the term.**

Thank you for your continued support. Year 2 has many exciting learning opportunities this term, and we are excited to see your child's growth mindset blossom as they explore and develop new skills!

Daily reminders:

Our uniform consists of:

- A purple sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Purple or white polo shirt with school logo
- Black trousers, black skirt or black pinafore
- Lilac/purple school gingham dress (summer)
- Black shoes
- If a headscarf is worn this should be black, white or purple

Our PE kit consists of:

- A white polo shirt with school logo
- Black jogging bottoms or black shorts
- Black plimsolls or suitable trainers

Please can all clothing items be labelled with your child's name

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:

Water

Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school.

Bookbag - Please check regularly and take out letters and communication

This should carry the reading wallet with:

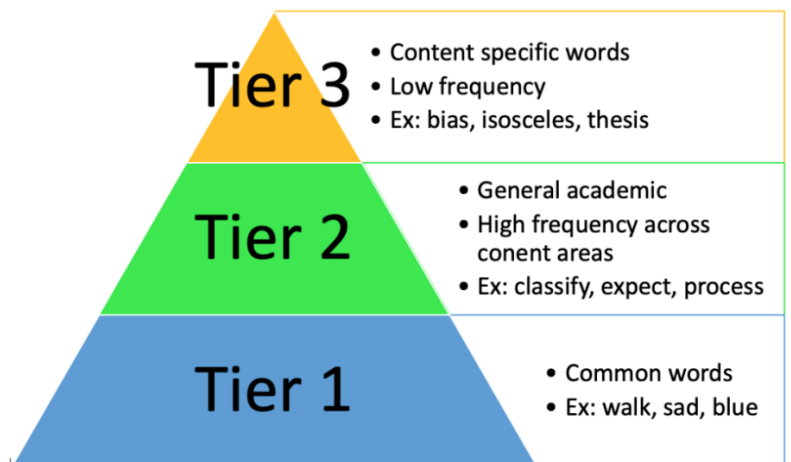
- RWI Reading book
- RWI book bag book
- Class library book
- Reading journal
- Core Book Challenge - optional



Key



Vocabulary



Three-Tiered Model of Vocabulary (Beck et al., 2013)

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:

Science

Vocabulary for explicit instruction



☰ Tier 2 multiple meaning or high frequency

thrive	to grow and be strong
depend	to rely on
producer	something that makes its own food
consume	to eat, drink or use up
prey	animal hunted by another animal for food
predator	animal that hunts others for food

☰ Tier 3 subject specific

oxygen	gas essential to life
nutrition	process of taking in food
respiration	process of using oxygen to release energy from food
sensitivity	ability to detect and respond to changes
reproduction	process of making new life
excretion	process of expelling waste

History

Year 2 Half Term Learning Highlights:

Vocabulary for explicit instruction



Tier 2 multiple meaning or high frequency		Tier 3 subject specific	
bustling	full of activity, noise and energy	flammable	something that is easy to set fire to
raged	spreading with great force	devoured	to destroy something completely
extinguished	to put an end to	possessions	the things you own
merchant	a person involved in buying or selling goods	ineffective	not doing what it is meant to do
engulfed	to surround and cover completely	doused	to wet thoroughly by pouring liquid over it

Art

Working Artistically

Shape	Line	Colour	Value	Form	Texture	Space
Shape is a flat (2D) area surrounded by an outline or edge.	Lines are used to show movement and mood.	Colour is used to convey atmosphere and mood.	Value is the intensity of colour and depends on the amount of white added.	Artists use form when they create sculptures. These are 3D shapes.	Texture is the look and feel of a surface.	Space in artwork makes a flat image look like it has form.