

Year 2 Newsletter Autumn Term 1 2021

Themed Half Term: Great Fire of London



Year 2

Hello and welcome to Year 2.

We are really looking forward to the year ahead with your children and hope you are too!

Y2 Team: Miss Corr and Mrs Harris

If you have any queries or concerns you would like to discuss, please contact the office to arrange a telephone call or an appointment with me.



Important Dates

All homework will be set on Friday and is due the following Friday.

Spelling tests will take place on a Friday.

Reading book change: Friday.

PE days: Please send your child into school in their full PE kit on their PE days which are Tuesday and Wednesday

RE

This half-term in RE, our topic is 'Chosen People' where we will develop children's understanding of how they are special and the gifts God gives each one of us. We will explore how to show thanks to God and learn the stories of people who showed trust in God, including Abraham and Daniel. There will be opportunities for children to ask questions about the stories they hear and to nurture a sense of wonder.

English

Our English learning this half-term will be linked to our Topic, the Great Fire of London. We will explore a variety of texts about the event through both group and whole class guided reading sessions, using a range of comprehension skills. We will use the story of Vlad and the Great Fire of London to inspire our writing and develop both diary and letter writing skills. We will start by securing our understanding of what a sentence is and write different types of sentences and in different tenses. We will explore adverbs and adjectives to make our writing more exciting and try using these in expanded noun phrases. There will be opportunities for extended writing and for children to read aloud work they are proud of. Children will continue to have discrete daily phonics lessons, differentiated to suit their reading needs, and will practice decoding real and monster words with all sounds. To support your child with their learning, please read regularly and widely at home.

Mathematics

We will start our Maths learning with place value, to ensure a secure foundation for all future number work. We will explore different ways to represent tens and ones and different strategies to add and subtract numbers. We will then secure step-counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and learn to count in 3s. Finally, we will learn to recognise and use number fact-families and make number bonds to 100. Children will continue to have daily KIRF (Key Instant Recall Fact) activities to work on this half-term's target; counting forward and back from 0 - 100 starting from any number. To support your child with their learning, please practise your child's KIRFs with them.

Science

Our Science unit this half-term is Materials. Children will be supported to recall their learning about Everyday Materials from Year 1, using correct terminology for their names and properties. Children will be challenged to group materials according to their own and given criteria, and explore which materials are waterproof. Children will also design and conduct experiments to find out which materials can be changed and use their findings to explain material choices. In our final lesson, we will link our learning to our topic work about the Great Fire of London and explore how material choices have changed over time.

Computing

This half-term, we will be linking our computing curriculum to our Great Fire of London topic. We will build on the programming skills children started in Year 1 using a programme called Scratch. Children will develop their own codes and create their own Sprite, learning to make it move in different directions and across different backgrounds. We will also be revisiting how to stay safe online.

Topic: Great Fire of London

The Great Fire of London is always a popular topic and we hope you are as excited as we are to learn more about it! We will start with a geography focus to help us locate London on a map and describe its key features, comparing London to Wetherby. We will then move on to our history focus and develop our understanding of the chronology of the fire and key events, before exploring Samuel Pepys and other sources of information. Children will be encouraged to draw upon their learning from Year 1 about Grace Darling to think about how emergency services have changed over time.

DT

Our DT project this half-term is to make Tudor Houses, using our learning about the Great Fire of London. Children will follow the plan, do, review process and begin by exploring Tudor design before drawing their own sketches. Children will be challenged to develop their cutting and construction techniques to build and decorate their houses using a range of materials. Children will peer-assess their work and experience a real (but health and safety approved) fire in their houses on the playground!

PE

This half term the children will have a PE partner session on a Wednesday where they will focus on agility, balance and co-ordination through a variety of ball games.

In our weekly lesson, we will develop children's mastery of movement through Great Fire of London themed dance and gymnastic lessons. Children will learn to jump, balance, link two actions to make a sequence and perform to their classmates in a supportive atmosphere. Please ensure your child comes to school in their full PE kit on their PE Days, which are Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

MFL

This half-term, we will start our MFL learning by exploring the links between the Great Fire of London and the French! We will then learn a range of greetings in French and practice saying and writing appropriate

Music

This half-term's music lessons will include learning the famous round 'London's Burning' and will develop children's learning from Year 1 of clapping rhythms and singing rhythmic phrases. We will also explore soundscapes, creating different body percussion sounds to imitate the Great Fire of London's sound journey! We will enjoy performing our soundscape compositions to each other!

PSHE

In the first half-term, we will focus on children's wellbeing and address any worries and concerns about starting Year 2. We will develop children's emotional literacy by learning to name, recognise and manage different feelings, both their own and the feelings of others around them. Finally, we will look at people who can help us and learn to call 999 in an emergency.

Homework

Our homework policy is available on the school website.

We feel it is important to give the children time to settle back in to the routine of school and know the first few weeks back are particularly tiring. We therefore will not start spelling and maths homework until Week 3 (wb 20th September). We ask that until then, you prioritise daily reading with your child. When homework does start, children will be set Maths tasks related to classroom learning on Mathematics (set every Friday) and spellings will be issued on Spelling Shed every Friday for a weekly test.



Ways to Help Your Child

We are incredibly grateful for all the valuable support you give your children at home.

Homework tasks provide a good opportunity to secure classroom learning and teach children discipline and time-management skills, so please complete homework tasks as often as you can.

Reading with your child continues to be a priority in Year 2, and as your child grows in confidence as a reader, it is important to challenge them with questions and discussions around the text. Inference based questions, where children are challenged to draw on prior knowledge, make links to other things they have read and 'read between the lines', provide a high level of challenge for all children. You can also start to encourage your child to recognise the writer's craft, for example, drawing attention to word choice and punctuation, and this in turn will support their writing.

Please make an appointment to speak to Miss Corr if you would like any further advice about supporting your child's learning at home.