



Dear Year 2 parents and carers,

**Welcome to Year 2!** We hope that you have all had lovely and restful summer breaks. The children have settled really well into their new classes and are getting used to the new routines. Please find below an outline of our curriculum for the first half of the autumn term.

### **English**

In English this half term the children will be learning about *Journey stories*. They will be learning to orally retell the model text using story maps and actions. The children will be thinking about the structure and language features of stories, with a particular focus on character description and dialogue. We will be working on their use of adjectives to add description to their sentences. The children will then be planning, writing and editing their own journey stories.

### **Maths**

In Maths, we will be learning about:

*Numbers within 100* - The children will be identifying how many tens and ones there are in a 2-digit number (place value); comparing and ordering numbers; as well as reading and spelling numbers written as words.

*Addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers* - We will be working on the mental recall of addition and subtraction facts, number bonds and the children will be using objects and number lines to support their calculations.

The children will also have short maths meetings on most days, where quick oral maths skills will be covered.

### **Science**

Our Science topic for this half term is *Animals needs for survival*. Children will learn that all mammals need air, water, food and shelter to survive. In Year 2, children will use the term “air” instead of oxygen, because they will not yet have been introduced to gases. They will recap the terms “carnivore”, “omnivore” and “herbivore” so they can differentiate between different dietary requirements. There is an opportunity for children to think about sustainability within this unit. Children will explore how they can help to protect and care about mammals in their local area.

### **History**

Our History topic this term is *Changes to Alexandra Palace*. The children will find out about the history of Alexandra Palace, including the changes to the Palace following the two fires. They will consider the changing uses of the Palace and its grounds over the past century. We are hoping to organise some visits to Alexandra Palace over the term, to help bring the topic to life.

### **PSHE**

In PSHE we will be thinking about *Diversity and Communities*. The children will be developing their sense of personal identity and self-worth, as well as considering and respecting the needs and views of others. They will learn about different groups and cultures within their class community and about the importance of identifying and challenging stereotypes.

### **PE**

This half term, the children will be developing their *gymnastics skills* in our whole class PE sessions. PE for the whole class will happen on Mondays (Moore) and Wednesdays (Hepworth). Please ensure they

bring their PE kit on this day. Half of the class will also be developing their *throwing and catching skills* on the days that the other half have swimming. We will let you know whether your child is swimming or doing PE.

**Swimming** takes place on Thursdays (Hepworth) and Fridays (Moore). Please ensure that your child has the appropriate swimming kit for this day. Those who will **not** be swimming on these days will be taking part in PE, therefore will need to have their PE kit for these days as well. **Further information will be provided regarding swimming groups.**

### **Art**

We will be finding out about our class artists (Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth) and using their work as inspiration for our own. Additionally, the children will be focusing on developing their drawing and sketching skills.

### **Computing**

Children will develop their understanding of what information technology (IT) is and will begin to identify examples. They will discuss where they have seen IT in school and beyond, in settings such as shops, hospitals, and libraries. Children will then investigate how IT improves our world, and they will learn about the importance of using IT responsibly.

### **Music**

Year 2 will be composing their own rhythms using rhythm sentences and learning how to notate this rhythm. They will start to recognise the characteristics of different instruments and their families.

### **Library**

Each class will have fortnightly library sessions. This is an opportunity for the children to spend some time browsing the books and swapping their "free choice" reading book. The library is also open during lunchtimes should children wish to change their book more frequently. Hepworth's library session is every other Thursday, whilst Moore class goes every other Friday.

### **Homework**

Homework letters will be given to children each week on a Friday. This term we are focusing on spelling and quick recall of number facts. Spelling challenge tasks place on a Friday. Please encourage your child to practise their spellings daily. Guided reading books are changed every Friday. Please ensure your child brings their book back to school in order to be able to take home their new book. Please support your child by discussing the homework tasks with them and if you are unsure please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

### **Introduction to Year 2 Meeting**

An introductory meeting will take place next Tuesday (17<sup>th</sup> September 2024) at 3.45pm. During this meeting we will give you an overview of the routines and curriculum that we will be exploring in Year 2.

Kind regards

Daisy Hill and Lucy Norman

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