



Year 1 and 2 Class Newsletter

Spring Term 2

2024 - 2025

Welcome back!

We are now into the second half of the school year; this year seems to be flying past!

Please find below information about what we are covering in the curriculum and how you can help to support your child with their learning. Please continue to read 3+ times a week with your child.

In Year 2, children should be accessing TT Rockstars and Spelling Shed at least 3 times a week also. We have noticed this isn't happening as often as it should so please ask if you need help on how to get onto the websites. The children's usernames and passwords are in their reading records.

Curriculum

English	Year 1	<p>To continue with our beautiful and fantastic writing from last half term we will need to cast our memories back to creating puppets last half term. We will be learning how to write some simple instructions about how to make puppets. The children will become feature spotters and start to identify the different features that are essential for a set of instructions. Following this, children will learn how to use time conjunctions (first, then, next, lastly etc.) and use these accurately within their own set of instructions.</p> <p>The Tiger Who Came to Tea is also one of our main focuses this half term and the children will begin to write slightly longer and slightly more complex sentences to both sequence and describe what is happening within certain parts of the text as well as, eventually, write their own version of The Tiger Who Came to Tea – but changing the main character for something they choose themselves.</p> <p>To finish this half term we will also be looking at writing our own version of a Traditional Tale – however, I am going to let the children decide (via a democratic vote) which traditional tale we are going to edit ourselves so I cannot yet say which text is going to be our main focus. Of course, within all these units we will be focusing on our writing non-negotiables; capital letters, full stops and accurate spaces between our words. As well as encouraging the use of adjectives, verbs and nouns within their sentences too.</p>
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	Year 2	<p>The children have made huge progress in their English writing so far this year so I'm really looking forward to putting into practise all of the skills they have been learning. To start the term off we will be writing a narrative based on the book Traction Man. We will be concentrating on using adventurous and precise vocabulary, expanded noun phrases, adverbs, subordinating conjunctions and most importantly, writing cohesively!</p> <p>After that we will be exploring poetry. The children love it whenever we read poetry so please get out any nursery rhyme or poetry book you have at home and read them together. We will be exploring rhyming patterns and we will write some simple poems of our own, with a theme of Spring and Easter.</p>
Maths	Year 1	<p>We will start by thinking about additive structures within our maths unit this half term. We will continue working from mainly our part-whole models as well as some three-part whole models for the children to not only become familiar with the process but also the new key terminology too. We will be introducing the terms addend, total and equation (number sentence) to the children, taking them further with their understanding of things like commutative law ($2+5=7$ as well as $5+2=7$). We will be deepening the children's knowledge of explaining their own understanding of what they can see or prove within some specific learning objectives. We will also learn that the = sign can be used to show that the whole and the sum of the parts are equal. Pupils will find the value of the whole and write the equation as well as finding the missing addend within equations too. We will also be thinking about how addition and subtraction are inverse operations.</p>
	Year 2	<p>Continuing on from our success with multiplication and division last term, we will be starting Spring 2 with learning about fractions. We will be recognising equal parts and then recognise halves, quarters, thirds and three quarters. We will then be finding a half, a quarter, a third and three quarters.</p> <p>Once we are secure with fractions we will move onto learning about time. Time is something children often find hard but it is also one of the easiest topics to help with at home. Please ask your children to tell the time using an analogue (circular) clock, as they tend to do this less often than they do digital clocks. I will be teaching them how to tell the time to the hour, half hour, quarter to, quarter past and we may even get onto 5-minute intervals.</p> <p>Lastly, we will start our statistics topic and aim to finish it after Easter. We will look at tables, tally charts and bar charts.</p>
Phonics	Year 1	<p>Again, we will continue with our Little Wandle Phonics Scheme plan and work out way through the last few remaining Phase 5 phonics sounds. Within these lessons, we will continue to read a daily sentence that contains the digraphs/ trigraphs that are taught to help embed the learning focus for the day as well as continuing to write three words that have the same focus too. The children will also start to, on a more regular basis, write some 'silly sentences' that mainly consist of the spelling passport words a few times a week. As always, we encourage the children to independently work on their spelling passport words during their continuous provision in the mornings and afternoons however any additional time spent at home working towards achieving this will make sure they are working towards their golden house point (worth 5 normal ones!) and of course working towards the end goal spelling passport by the end of Year 1.</p>
Spelling	Year 2	<p>Week 1: Common Exception words</p>

		<p>Week 2: el/le endings e.g. apple, little, travel</p> <p>Week 3: al/il endings e.g. animal, loyal, pencil</p> <p>Week 4: all sound e.g. also, call, talk</p> <p>Week 5: wa/wo e.g. warm, want, worm</p> <p>Week 6: homophones e.g. here, hear, quiet, quite</p>
History	All children	<p><i>Toys!</i> Our history unit this half term, will be based around comparing and contrasting different types of toys throughout the years. We will begin our journey looking at toys from the Victorian period and think about how they are made, were they inside or outside toys, what materials they were made from and who/how children played with these different toys. We will start to compare our key Victorian period toys with the toys we play with today and start to draw differences and similarities between the two. We will discuss the use of electricity for many toys we play with today and the lack of this within the Victorian period, especially within the use of toys that children would have played with. We will be looking and thinking about the reliability of the sources we look at and start to ask some historically relevant questions too. Finally, we will be discovering where the famous teddybear was ‘invented’ and how it has become a world-wide toy that millions of children have in their bedrooms today!</p>
Science	All children	<p>‘Uses of Materials’ is going to be our sole focus for this half term’s science lessons. We will be thinking about the material and object – recapping from a few half terms ago and then taking this a little further by exploring the suitability of the materials that things have been made from. We will have to verbally discuss and explain how/why some materials will be suitable and unsuitable for specific objects and understand the reasons behind this. Our significant scientist studies this half term will be <i>Charles Macintosh</i> the inventor of liquid rubber and the good old-fashioned raincoat or ‘Mac’!</p>
Art	All children	<p>Our unit this half term is based around Sculptures! We will be looking into the artist Andy Goldsworthy and think about the different materials he used to build his natural sculptures and have a go at recreating some of our own sculptures using his style and ideas by using natural materials around us. We will also be creating our own sculptures out of clay. These will be based around sea anemones and the children will have plenty of opportunity to learn how to roll, fold and even shape the clay using different techniques and materials to give the clay texture too!</p>
Computing	All children	<p><i>Creating Pictures</i> will be our first focus for this half term. Within this unit we will be looking at how to use different styles of art such as impressionism and pointillism to recreate the different artists styles using the application 2Paint a Picture. The children will learn how to save, edit and even use different sized brush strokes and colours with spray effects etc to help build and develop their artwork in lots of different ways. Our final mini topic is <i>Making Music</i>. Within this unit of Computing, we will be using the application 2Sequence; creating our own piece of music and think about changing the beats per minute and also thinking about increasing and decreasing the volume and choosing different musical instruments.</p>
PSHE	All children	<p>Relationships will continue to be our unit for the remainder of Spring Term with a focus on <i>Safe Relationships</i>. We will be thinking how different types of touches make us feel – tickling, hugging, pushing, hitting etc. As well as starting to think about how we might respond if we are feeling uncomfortable for unsafe and how to ask for permission before we go to hug someone or even just touching others. Our last mini unit within <i>Relationships</i> is about learning to recognise kind and</p>

		unkind behaviours both inside and outside of school. We will be thinking about our key value of respect and how we can show and recognise it both inside and outside of school too. Finally, we will be looking at class rules, being polite to one-another, thinking about sharing, taking turns and what it really looks like in daily life.
RE	All children	<p><i>Why do we celebrate important occasions?</i> is our overarching question for this half term's RE lessons. We will be thinking about the important times we celebrate with our family and friends and also think about why this is. We will also be thinking about what times do other people celebrate with their family and friends – does this look different to what our own family does? We will think about the similarities and differences between our celebrations and stop and reflect about what makes these celebrations so important and special?</p> <p>We will investigate how some religious people celebrate their important occasions and think about the feelings and beliefs that are expressed on these occasions too. We will think about the impact of these celebrations have on people's lives too – as well as identifying similarities and differences between these occasions.</p>

As always, you know where we are if you need us. It is never any trouble having a quick catch up at the door at the start or the end of the day!

Mrs Thurlow and Mrs Clarke
Year 1 and 2 Class Teachers