

# Year 2 Learning Letter

## This Term's Project

**'The Elements'** Join us as we learn about three of the Earth's great elements: water, air and fire! In this first half term, Year 2 have begun learning about water in all its forms, this will help us to understand how the 'Water City' in the Sense Garden will be constructed. Brunel's bridges and his other achievements will help the children discover historical events and people. We will investigate materials and their many uses in science. Then, after half term, we will learn about air, flight and dragons! We will learn about the history of flight including the life and achievements of Amelia Earhart. Using the beautiful 'Tell me a Dragon' poetry book as a stimulus, we will use powder paint to create our own dragon landscape in art.

### Mathematics

Our focus this term is to continue to apply our mathematical knowledge through problem solving activities, practical tasks and guided learning sessions. We are focusing on multiplication and division, adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers and recognising the place value of numbers up to (and beyond) 100. Children will be using the inverse to help check answers and understand that this is a strategy for 'undoing'. In measure we will tell and write the time to 5 mins, work with money and compare and order length, mass & volume.

### English

We have started the term by writing some explanation texts, linked to our science learning. The children are learning about using conjunctions to join their ideas together (e.g. but, so, because). As we progress through the term we will continue to develop our vocabulary and grammatical knowledge and show this in our writing. We will be doing some more non-fiction writing in the form of a biography about a significant individual, linked to our history learning. To finish the term, we will use 'The Dragon Machine' to inspire us to write some dragon stories. We will be focusing on making our writing interesting for the reader by using noun phrases and other techniques.

*"No matter what your ability is, effort is what ignites that ability and turns it into accomplishment."*

*Carol Dweck*

Year 2  
Spring Home Learning

ESSENTIAL each week:

#### Reading

Make a time to read regularly. Little and often is best but as the complexity and length of book increases more time might be needed. Priority should be given to the Guided Reading text. Always have a conversation about what you have read and understand.

#### Maths

x3 sessions of up to 15 minutes practise of the current maths skills on Education City. New homework tasks will be updated fortnightly.

*Lost your Education City log-in? Ask your class teacher to provide you with this again.*

*No internet? Drop into the ICT suite on a Thursday after school with your child. someone will be there and will be happy to help.*

**OPTIONAL to enjoy over the Spring Term** to further support your

*child's learning and skills. How much time to spend on each task will depend on the activity. A good rule to go by is... enough time to enjoy but not too much time to make learning a chore.*

**Draw:** Try and draw some bridges, tunnels and buildings to become an engineer like Brunel.

**Research:** A famous inventor and create a poster or a fact file about them.

**Visit:** <http://www.fleetairarm.com/>

**Have a look at the Fleet Air Arm Museum site to see a sneak peak of the wonders in store for us all.**

**Go to:** Cricklepit Mill to see the water mill and explore the rest of the Quay.

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Bring your home learning into class to celebrate.

*Did you know that you can print off certificates from Education City?*

STOKE HILL  
FEDERATION

# Last Term

Thank you for your support during our Autumn Term.

What a great start to Year 2!

September seems like a long time ago but we are sure everyone has their own top memories of the Autumn Term. Here are a few of ours:

- Learning about the world we live in; the country Gambia and the continent Antarctica.
- Our trip to Rosemoor Gardens and exploring apple pressing with Kevin Cotter.
- Designing and sewing our very own felt Christmas decoration.
- Using a variety of programmes in computing and researching the answers to our own questions, using the internet.
- A thrilling theatre experience at the Phoenix.



*inspire*



*succeed*



## Out and About

Are you hearing the 'bird song' in the mornings? Which birds can you see during the winter? Try out this spotter sheet. Download by clicking here:

<http://wildlifewatch.org.uk/images/Downloads/spotters/winter%20garden%20wildlife.pdf>

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### Winter bird spotter



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Robin by Stewart McDonald / Brambling, Mistle Thrush, Fieldfare, Waxwing & Redwing by northeastwildlife.co.uk / Coal tit by Neil Aldridge / Wren & Long-tailed tit by Steve Waterhouse / Fieldfare by Stefan Johansson / Goldcrest by David Longshaw

### Did you know?

- Baby blue tits are very hungry little birds. Their parents have to collect around 1000 small insects a day to feed them.
- Robins are very resourceful and will make their nests almost anywhere – kettles, flower pots, behind pianos and even in unmade beds!
- Herring gulls have a small claw half way up their lower leg to make sure they are not blown off when sitting on ledges.