



Year 2 Autumn Newsletter



Hello and welcome to Year 2! I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break. I am very excited to be teaching you all this year and to seeing so many faces that I already know! We are very lucky to have Miss Skipp supporting us too! On Thursdays, Mrs Stevens will be working in Year 2. We have lots of learning and fun planned for the Autumn term. Below you will find key information regarding our class and the key learning content for the next term.

Reading

Initially, we will be continuing with phonics (Phase 5 Review) to ensure skills are embedded and transferable to Year 2. This will also support our spelling skills. Children will read appropriately matched books during Reading Practice sessions. In Autumn 2, the majority of children will be taking part in a brand-new approach we have adopted from Little Wandle, called Reading Fluency. These sessions will be similar to the Reading Practice sessions your children are used to. The sessions will increase children's speed, fluency and accuracy and develop key reading skills. Alongside this we will be looking at a range of ambitious books including poetry and non-fiction.

English

In the first four weeks we will be focusing on English basic skills, children will focus on consolidating their understanding of grammar, including common and proper nouns, verbs, and sentence structure. These core skills will be introduced and practised through short, engaging activities that build accuracy and confidence in writing. By Week 4, the class will apply these skills in context using the main text *Grandad's Island*. Through this story, children will explore a range of writing purposes such as setting descriptions, letter and a set of instructions ensuring they can use nouns, verbs, and varied sentence structures effectively in their independent writing.

We will be practising our handwriting daily in class. Children need to have neat legible handwriting, that is of the correct size and sits on the line before beginning to join. When the majority of children can do this, we will begin joining to match our school script.

Spelling

In Autumn 1, we will be covering some of the Year 2 common spellings. Please practise at home at least three times a week. From Week 6, we will be using the Bridge to Spelling programme by Little Wandle. This follows on from the Phase 5 Review mentioned above. This will enable children to apply their phonics knowledge to spelling. This will continue into Autumn 2 before we move onto the Little Wandle Spelling units. Children will have a spelling test each **Friday**.

Maths

In Maths we will be covering:

- ✓ Place Value
- ✓ Addition and Subtraction
- ✓ Shape

We will be working on a wide variety of skills to master these units. We will be providing more challenging questions (Problem Solving and Reasoning) to ensure children can really understand the concepts they are taught. During this part of the year children really need to secure their understanding of key bonds, doubles and halves (within 20) so that they can work quickly to solve the problems within Maths.

Science

During Science we will initially be looking at living things and their habitats. Children will learn to classify animals according to whether they are living, dead and never been alive. We will then explore habitats and micro-habitats. Whilst exploring this we will be looking at food sources and how habitats support this.

In Autumn 2, we will be moving on to materials. Children will learn about materials and their different purposes building on their knowledge from Year 1. Children will also test the suitability of the different materials for a range of purposes. Children will use a variety of working scientifically skills throughout the topics to challenge their thinking and test their predictions.

History

In History, we will be learning about Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale. We will be looking at the way they led their lives, how they impacted the world and in particular nursing. We will then be exploring the differences in their lives and how they are remembered today.

Geography

In Geography, we will be exploring our local area and our school. We will learn directional language and how to use maps to navigate routes and plans. We will learn the physical and human features of our school site and use this to help us map routes for others to follow.

PE

PE will take place on a **Tuesday and Thursday**. These sessions will be taught by Mr Uppal our sports coach. As PE is a compulsory subject, please ensure your child comes into school wearing the appropriate PE kit so they can take part. Please ensure all jewellery is removed and that long hair is tied back.

Music

Children will be learning how to play P Buzz as a class. The instruments are provided by the school and will be taught through Sandwell Music Services in school. We hope this gives children the opportunity to explore how to learn and play a musical instrument that could lead in to developing talents later on.

Art

In Art this term, we will be focusing on sketching and drawing and recreating art using natural resources. Initially we will be exploring artists who have been inspired by the environment before moving onto exploring the natural resources we have around us. We will then be exploring our sketching and creating skills using a variety of media.

Design and Technology

In DT this term, we will be exploring and creating mechanisms. This is to help us create a moving vehicle for Santa to give to another child. We will be exploring our purpose, what resources we need and how we can actually get the toy to work before making the actual product. Once created we will be evaluating the design and creation process.

Computing

In Computing lessons, we will be initially learning about technology in the world around us and how to keep safe whilst using it. We will explore the purposes of the technology available and how best to use it.

In Autumn 2, we will be exploring photography using the iPads. We will look at how images can be enhanced and changed. We will be exploring the best ways to take photographs and all the practical steps involved in taking good images.

Throughout the year we will be taking part in national computing events and safety days. For the Autumn term we will be exploring online bullying and our online self-image.

PSHE

In Autumn 1, we will be exploring 'Being me in my World'. We will be exploring our hopes and fears, our rights as children and how we can support each other to have a safe, happy learning environment. We will then create our own learning charter – where we all agree how to put these thoughts into action.

In Autumn 2, we will be exploring 'Celebrating Difference'. We will be discussing how we are unique, stereotypes and assumptions and finally how to help people who we think are being treated unfairly.

RE

In Autumn 1 RE, we will be exploring Christianity. We will be looking at the key question; What is the 'good news' Christians believe Jesus Brings? We will be discussing relevant stories from the Bible during these sessions.

In Autumn 2, we will be looking at the religious celebrations of some of the religions in Sandwell. We will look at how, why and where Sikh, Muslim and Christians celebrate religious festivals and occasions.

Homework

- Spellings – Please practise these spellings as much as possible even if only for a few minutes each day.
- Reading – please read your child's reading practice book with them as much as possible.
- Please log into Numbots for at least 15 minutes a week to support your learning within mastering number.

Other Information

Please ensure all your child's clothing, shoes, bags and bottles are clearly labelled as we may be unable to locate lost items that aren't named.

Children will need to bring their book bag to school daily as individual read slots vary across the week. They need to bring a labelled water bottle and they may also bring a **healthy** snack if they wish, for breaktime.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me either in person or email: Year2.als@annielennard.sandwell.sch.uk – I will endeavour to reply as quickly as possible within working hours.

I look forward to seeing you all,

Miss Kershaw 😊