

Welcome to Year 2!

Teaching Team

2AHI: Mr Hill

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2HMI: Mrs Mitton-Rooke

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Mornings are usually busy getting our classes settled, so please email and we will get back to you.

We are also lucky enough to be supported by our wonderful teaching assistants, Mrs Mitchell, Miss Wojnar, Miss Kidd, Miss Cooney and Mrs Nettleton.

Key Dates



Wednesday 3rd September – First day of Autumn Term

Thursday 15th October – Picture Day (individual and sibling)

Tuesday 3rd November – Flu immunisation

Friday 13th November – Year 2 Great Fire of London Experience Day

Friday 18th December – End of Term



PE Days

Our PE days for this term are:

Mr Hill's class – Monday (outdoor)
Friday (indoor)

Mrs Clifford's class – Wednesday (outdoor) Friday (indoor)

Mrs Mitton-Rooke's Class – Monday (outdoor) Friday (indoor)

Welcome Back!

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer holiday and that your children are happy to be back at school. It is great to see them all again. We are really looking forward to an exciting (and very busy!) term with our new classes.

Topics

Autumn Term 1 – Which Journeys Have Really Made a Difference?

Autumn Term 2 – How Has One Event Affected Our Lives Today?

Spring Term 1 – Could You Live in India?

Spring Term 2 – How Do Animals Survive?

Summer Term 1 – Are Animals or Plants More Important?

Summer Term 2 – Is It Better to Live at The Seaside?

This Term

Our first term's topic is based on 'journeys' and in our Talk for Reading and Talk for Writing sessions there are two stories ('The Umbrella' and 'Meerkat Mail') that we will be studying. Alongside this, our Geography focus will be on the Earth, oceans, continents and climates and we will move on to learning about historical figures who have made famous journeys, such as Christopher Columbus and Grace Darling. The class teachers are in school on Friday mornings, but you may be greeted at the door by Mrs Savage, Mrs Cotton or Mrs Huesken as they teach the children Dance, RE and Music on this day.

In Year 2, **homework** will be set every Friday and should be handed in by the following Wednesday, please. We will assign the tasks on **Seesaw** each week (all logins will come over the first couple of weeks of the year, where they will be found in their reading diaries), but we realise that online learning can be challenging for some families. If you would like a paper copy of the tasks, please let your child's class teacher know.

Similarly, if you have any other difficulties with your child completing homework, we are happy to support you in any way we can.

Developing Independence

Year 2 is an important year for developing independence and preparing children for the increased responsibilities they will encounter as they move through the school.

We will encourage children to take responsibility for their belongings, organise their equipment and attempt tasks independently before seeking help. Simple things such as carrying their own bags, looking after their reading books and diary, getting changed for PE independently and remembering their things all help to build confidence and resilience.

As part of this, children will come into school corridors independently in the mornings and are encouraged to put their own belongings away into their new lockers. Whilst staff will be nearby to help, these daily routines help children develop their organisation skills.



Phonics and Books

When we start our phonics lessons, you may find that your child goes to a different Year 2 teacher for some of their lessons. This is because we split the year group for phonics to best suit their learning.

Over the next few weeks, we will also be introducing a 'Talk About Book'. This will be chosen by your child and they are responsible for bringing it back and changing it. Like a library! We have deliberately selected books that are likely to be beyond their current reading level as we would like to expose them to more challenging texts in order to extend their vocabulary and variety of genres.

Play-Based Learning

Children will take part in independent, play-based learning on some afternoons each week, giving them valuable opportunities to explore ideas, practise skills, and deepen their understanding in a way that feels meaningful and enjoyable. This approach allows pupils to follow their interests, collaborate with classmates, and apply their existing knowledge in new contexts. Through carefully planned provision, they will build confidence, independence, and curiosity – all of which support and strengthen the learning they do across the wider curriculum.

Autumn Term Enrichment

Our Year 2 children will enjoy a fantastic range of enrichment opportunities this term, all designed to spark curiosity and build confidence. Alongside our play-based learning which includes access to independent roleplay and outdoor learning opportunities in the school forest, we will be doing a memorable experience day for our Great Fire of London Day with Trunk Theatre. These activities bring learning to life, broaden children's understanding of the world and create the kind of joyful moments they remember long after Year 2.



‘Times Tables Rockstars’ and ‘Numbots’

Please keep encouraging your child to use the Numbots app regularly. After the October half term break, once we have covered multiplication as part of our Maths lessons and the children are used to using the Times Tables Rock Stars app in school, we will encourage them to use it at home too. We would rather that they just used the Numbots app to begin with as this is one that they are very familiar with.

Uniform

We appreciate how expensive uniform can be and how frustrating it is when items go missing. If each item is named, we can return them quickly. As it is getting colder, please ensure that your child has a coat.

For PE, please make sure they have their house-coloured t-shirt, weatherproof trianers and warm joggers for outdoor PE. It may be helpful to have some spare uniform packed into their PE kits, just in case they need it!

Water Bottles

Drinking water have been proven to aid brain activity so we will always encourage this throughout the day. Please ensure your child has a NAMED bottle in school every day that contains only water. We will send these home to be washed every afternoon. Unfortunately there are few children who do not have one in school at the moment.



Reading

Children in Year 2 will continue to read to their class teacher or teaching assistant frequently and they will also take part in group reading sessions during which we teach specific reading skills and, very importantly, extend the children’s comprehension skills. You can support us at home not only by listening to your child read, but by asking questions about the text they have read. Reading with an adult is vital at this stage, even if it is only a few pages every night. The books will be checked daily so please remember to write a comment in your child’s diary in order for the book to be changed.



Thank you for your support. We value the partnership between home and school and look forward to a happy, successful and rewarding year together.

We are excited to get started and can’t wait to see all the progress the children will make this year. We look forward to sharing their achievements and successes with you throughout the year and thank you in advance for your continued support.

The Year 2 Team