



## Year 2 Newsletter - February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,  
We hope you had a lovely half-term break.

### Curriculum

Please find below our new topics for this half-term.

#### **English**

We will focus on the books ***Look Up!*** by **Nathan Bryon** and ***Up and Down*** by **Oliver Jeffers**. We will be using these texts to inspire our own writing, from persuasive posters, diary entries, letters of encouragement, descriptive writing, to writing our own short stories. We will also work on our inference skills and how to show how a character is feeling without explicitly saying so.

#### **Maths**

We will start a new unit on **statistics** - learning how to interpret and construct simple pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and tables. We will ask and answer simple questions by counting the number of objects in each category and sorting the categories by quantity. We will also ask and answer questions about totalling and comparing categorical data. We will then start a unit on **fractions**. The children will find halves, quarters and thirds of different shapes and numbers. They will also identify fractions that are equivalent (e.g. A half = 2 quarters).

#### **Science**

Our topic, continuing from the first half of spring term, is **plants**. We will learn about how climate affects plant growth - growing cress in different conditions to demonstrate this. We will also learn about the different types of plants that we eat, and compare different plants.

#### **History**

Our topic this half term is **the Victorians**. The children will be learning about what life was like in the Victorian era. We will be looking at the reign of Queen Victoria and some of the changes and inventions that occurred during her reign. We will find out what life was like for children during Victorian times and make comparisons to our lives now. We will also discuss the growth of the British empire under Queen Victoria, and the impact this had around the world.

#### **Music**

Our unit of work is 'Super Humans'. We will be learning to play rhythms with a steady beat, to compose musical patterns and to use symbols to represent sounds.

#### **PE**

Our units this half-term are **gymnastics** (Ball, Wall and Tall) and **dance** (Victorians). The dance sessions will be taught by a Premier Sports coach; therefore, a couple of PE sessions will be on different days for 2P and 2R. The teacher will let the children know if this is the case. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing and shoes on their PE days. You may wish to put leggings and trainers in your child's bag to change into if they are not already wearing these.

#### **Design and Technology**

The children will take part in a D&T day in which we will **create pouches** by joining two pieces of fabric together by using a running stitch.

### **Reading**

Please make sure your child brings in their **reading books and reading journal** on their reading day. Your child will continue to take part in a guided reading session and new books will be sent home for them each week. It is important that you continue to read with your child at home regularly. Your child has the opportunity to go to the school library once a week. They may borrow a book if they return their previous one.

### **Religion and Worldviews**

We will continue our unit on why our world is special, exploring ideas about the natural world and our place in it and how they relate to religious and other beliefs. The unit will cover some of the beliefs associated with Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Humanism.

### **Spelling and handwriting**

Each week children will continue to be given 6 spellings to learn by the end of the week. The spellings can be found on our weekly overview. We will send home a spelling activity sheet every Tuesday which children can complete at home. We will practise handwriting three times a week. This half term we will continue focusing on joining certain letters together.

### **PHSE**

Our unit this half-term focuses on **health and well-being**. We will be describing a range of feelings and developing simple strategies for managing them, learning about the benefits of physical activity, using breathing exercises to relax, and learning to understand our own strengths and how to set ourselves achievable goals.

### **Computing**

We will start word processing. The website [TypingClub](https://www.typingclub.com/) is useful if you wish to also practise touch typing at home.

### **Trips and Events**

#### **Author Visit**

On **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**, we will be welcoming the brilliant author **Kelechi Okafor** into school to visit the children in Reception, Year 1 and 2. She will be talking about her new book, **Strong Like Me**, a heart-warming picture-book about finding your own ways to be strong.

If you would like to pre-order this book for your child to have signed personally, please visit our local children's bookshop, Pickled Pepper Books' website and order on this link:

<https://www.pickledpepperbooks.co.uk/products/strong-like-me-by-kelechi-okafor-coleridge-primary-school-6th-march-2024>

Please remember to add your child's name and class to the 'notes to the book fairy' when ordering.

Children in receipt of the *Pupil Premium Grant* will receive this book for free.

#### **Tower Bridge trip**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March, we will be going to **Tower Bridge**.

**2P** and **2R** will go on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

**2B** and **2O** will go on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

Children will need a packed lunch on the day of their trip. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you will need the school to provide a packed lunch for your child.

**World Book Day**

World Book Day this year is on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. We would love to see children dress up as their favourite story character. If you don't have access to an outfit and would like to borrow something from school, then please let your child's class teacher know; they will be very happy to help your child find something to wear. As this clashes with 2P and 2R going to Tower Bridge, both classes will celebrate World Book day the following day instead (Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March) and are welcome to come in wearing costumes.

**Dates for your diaries**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** – INSET day (school closed for all children).

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – Coleridge's Reading Bingo Challenge finishes – please bring your bingo card and any money raised into school by this day.

**Parent meetings** this term will be taking place on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March** and **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March** between 4-6pm online on SchoolCloud. More details on this to follow.

If you have any questions or queries then please do not hesitate in making an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,  
The Year 2 Team