



Year 2 Newsletter - February 2025

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 book *Up and Down* by **Oliver Jeffers** and a **non-fiction** book called *Red Foxes*. We will be using these texts to inspire our own writing, including descriptive writing, writing our own short stories and non-fiction reports. 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 Shang Dynasty**. The children will be learning about the rise and fall of the Shang Dynasty, what life was like in Ancient China during this period, about important inventions and artefacts, as well as Shang religion and warfare.

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**. The dance sessions will be taught by a Premier Sports coach; therefore, a couple of PE sessions will be on different days. Teachers will let the children know of any upcoming changes. 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 book changing day. 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 also has the opportunity to go to the school library once a week. They may borrow a book if they return their previous one on the library day.

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 ParentHub. We will send home a spelling activity sheet every Monday 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 **Safety and the Changing Body**. We will be discussing the concept of privacy, exploring ways to stay safe online, learning about road safety, how to be safe around medicines, understanding that we must tell a trusted adult if something or someone makes us uncomfortable, and naming body parts.

Trips and Events

World Book Day

World Book Day this year is on **Thursday 6th 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.

Poetry Competition: Children will perform their poems in front of their class next week, and then vote for their favourite one. We look forward to hearing the wonderful performances!

Reading Bingo: Children should bring in their completed challenge cards, along with any sponsorship money they have collected, on World Book Day and hand them to their class teacher.

Book Swap: Children are encouraged to bring in just one book they no longer wish to keep, and that they are happy to swap for another. Please ensure that the book they bring in is in good condition and that it is something they are happy to share with others. They can bring in a book on any day next week, and we will then swap books at the end of the week.

Author Visit

On **Thursday, March 6th**, Frances Tosdevin, the author of **DO NOT SAY THESE WORDS**, and Rhian Wright, the illustrator, will be visiting Coleridge to launch their new picture book – a book that will also be published on the same day!

This exciting event is specifically for our Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 children, and we can't wait to bring this unique experience to our young readers.

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/collections/frances-tosdevin-coleridge-pre-order-thursday-6th-march>

Hampstead Heath Trip

On the 15th and 16th May, we will be going to **Hampstead Heath** to take part in a **Habitats** workshop which will include pond dipping and bug hunting.

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.

More information to follow!

Dates for your diaries

Friday 14th March – INSET day (school closed for all children).

Thursday 20th March – Year 2 Classroom Visit. We look forward to welcoming you into the classroom from 8.45 to 9.05 if you would like to see the children's artwork and what we have been working on.

Tuesday 1st April and **Wednesday 2nd April** – **Parent meetings** this term will be taking place 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