

# YEAR 2 NEWS!!

**Autumn Term 2023**

Dear Families,

A big welcome to Year 2 from all of us! We know that the children will soon settle into the new routines and we hope that they enjoy all the activities that we have planned for them. This newsletter should give you all the key information you need for the coming term but if you have any other questions please do ask.

Pine Class - Teacher: Miss Mckinlay  
Teaching Assistants: Mrs Challis and Mrs Tebbitts

Lime Class —Teacher: Mrs Sousa  
Teaching Assistants: Mrs Tebbitts, Mrs Worwood and Mrs Hartwell

## Topics

This half term's humanities topic is 'London' - focussing on both London's geography and history. We will be looking at the River Thames from its source, to the mouth and the various landmarks along it that have helped London to become such a big tourist attraction. In history, we will be finding out how and why the Great Fire of London started and about the lives of Samuel Pepys and Sir Christopher Wren.

After half-term our topic is 'Victorians' and we cover aspects of Queen Victoria's life, Victorian toys, what education was like for Victorian children and comparing their Christmas festivities with ours. We will also find out about the life of Florence Nightingale, before comparing her to Mary Seacole in the summer term. In RE, we will be learning more about the Christian faith and our science this term will involve learning about the properties of everyday materials and how they are



## Trips/Visits



We are excited to, once again, be going to The Tower of London. As this trip takes place so early in the school year, on Friday September 29th, you have already received the information regarding payment.

During the second half of the term, we will receive a visit from an important person related to our Victorian topic and on Friday 24th November, we will be enjoying a traditional Victorian school day, complete with costumes and strict teachers. This day is great fun and always a highlight of the year. Further information will follow nearer the time.

## Homework

Daily reading continues to be the main component of the homework in Year 2, with children expected to read 5 times a week. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for more information on this key homework. Children will be encouraged to learn spellings at home and information on how this works in practice will be sent home within the next few days. They will also be working on their mental maths skills via Big Maths Beat That, which is a twice weekly, timed maths test. After the first test, they will bring home their answer sheet, so that you can practise the calculations, prior to a repeat attempt later in the week.

All other homework will be online using the following websites: Mathletics, TTRockstars (times tables) and Spag.com (spelling and grammar). Reminders of the logins for all of these will be sent home shortly.





### English

This term, the children will be busy completing lots of writing activities. There will be units focusing on stories, instructions, poetry and information texts. In addition, over the course of the term, we will focus on other aspects of English including topic related texts, speaking & listening activities. The children will work on any phonics gaps that they may have and then, once they are ready, they will move onto Read, Write Inc, which is the spelling programme used from years 2 - 6. Through this scheme the children work on spelling rules such as suffixes.

### Maths

This term we will be building on the work started in Year 1. We will be partitioning numbers into tens and ones and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s up to 100 and learn the times tables for 2, 5 and 10. We will also be using money to solve problems. We will work on other areas of maths too, such as shape and measures. Children will be taught different mental arithmetic strategies to help them in their maths work and, where possible, use problem solving situations to bring maths to life.



### Library

We will be visiting the library weekly, with **Lime class visiting each Monday and Pine class each Thursday.**

For ease, when not being read, we suggest that you keep their book in their book bag, so that they always have it in school when they need it.



### Reading

We believe that reading is the most valuable skill children learn and as a school, we continue to read on a one-to-one basis with all children. This is a huge commitment but we realise the importance of this in ensuring all children make great progress & develop a life-long love of reading. We appreciate that family life is busy and it can be difficult to fit everything in, but daily reading at home is of huge benefit to your child. In Year 2, the expectation is that children read five times across the week and we ask that you sign, date and comment on your child's reading in their diary, for each of those reading sessions. If we notice that they have not read five times within a week, we will advise you that there is an issue with this homework. If there continues to be a problem your child will be required to attend reading detention during a break time. We will also make contact with you to discuss your child's reading homework. We are happy to offer advice and support to any families who find this difficult to achieve; please just ask.

If your child is working on filling gaps in their phonics knowledge, they will be reading texts that align with the phonics phase that they are working on. These are organised by their phase number and week. A letter detailing the organisation of this was sent to parents last term along with an evening meeting to explain the changes in more detail, which I hope some of you were able to attend. The letter has been re-sent via Headlines.

If your child has moved onto learning spellings via Read, Write Inc, they will continue to choose books based on our book banding approach. They will choose a new book each day from their colour band. Alongside these books, all children will also choose a sharing text, which you will be able to read to your child.

### Equipment

In KS1, all children need to have a book bag, rather than a rucksack, for their belongings. Their pegs and lockers need to hold their coat, PE bag and shoes so a book bag is ideal. They will not need a pencil case, but should bring a glue stick to school. This will be shared across the year group, so there is no need to name it. They should also bring a packet of tissues and a water bottle.

### P.E

We have outdoor P.E (weather permitting) on a Wednesday. Lime class have indoor PE on a Monday and Pine class on a Thursday. We are also aiming to do the Raleigh Run on two other days each week. We will send their kits home to be washed at the end of each half-term. They also need to have plimsolls or trainers in school every day as they will need to wear them if they wish to use the adventure playground or the traverse, climbing wall during playtimes.



**Our Y2 'Meet the Teacher' meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th September at 2.45pm.** The meeting will be held in 2 Lime classroom.

Don't forget to read Headlines each week and check the school website for other useful information. Please send in any queries you have for us via your child's reading record or, if urgent, send an email to the office. Please do not phone unless it is essential. Also, do keep us up to date with any changes in your family's personal circumstances.

We look forward to working with you this year. The Year 2 Team.