

# YEAR 2 Curriculum Blog

## Autumn 1 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,




Welcome to Year 2! We are happy to start on an exciting learning journey with your children in the coming weeks. Through this curriculum blog, we aim to keep you well-informed and engaged in your child's learning.


Our first-half term topic, 'Animal adventures' centers around design and technology. It enables pupils to explore and use sliders and levers in creating their own mechanism. They will use questions to develop their understanding e.g. How does the slider move? How does the lever move? Which part of the mechanism is the pivot? What does the movement of the slider and lever remind you of? They will also make links to science, learning about living things and their habitats. They will work towards creating an animal diorama with moveable parts included.


We look forward to collaborating with you within the upcoming academic year. Should you have any questions or need any clarifications, please don't hesitate to contact us on Class Dojo. Together, let's build curiosity and wonder in our young learners as they begin Year 2. Here's to a fantastic half-term filled with growth, learning, and wonderful memories.


Warmest regards,

Mrs Deverell, Mrs Abegunde and Mrs Desso

<b>English</b> 	<p>In English this half term, our first text will be <i>The Crow's Tale</i>. This story is a tale of bravery and kindness with eye-catching, colourful illustrations.</p> <p>The children will be building sentences using the writing lenses that they are familiar with from year 1. We will be building upon these skills and introducing them to new skills and vocabulary, ready for them to complete an independent narrative piece of writing.</p>
<b>Mathematics</b> 	<p>This term begins with place value. As part of this unit, the children will be recapping their previous learning from year 1 and moving on the counting objects to 100 by making tens. They will be using a place value chart, partitioning numbers and using a number line to estimate and order numbers, before they progress on to ordering numbers and objects and counting in steps of 2's, 5's, 10's and 3's.</p> <p>The unit to follow this will be addition and subtraction. The children will begin this before the autumn half-term.</p> <p>Please log in to TTRS to further support maths learning. Message your class teacher on Class Dojo for support with this if necessary.</p>
<b>RWI</b> 	<p>In the Read Write Inc. (RWI) program, learners, particularly young children in primary schools, can acquire a range of essential literacy skills. The program is designed to systematically teach reading, writing, and language skills using a phonics-based approach. This term pupils will continue to develop the ability to read with accuracy and speed and through practice with phonetically decodable texts, will start to become a more confident reader. Every week, they will be allocated</p>

	<p>spelling words linked to the RWI book, or with a spelling pattern. This knowledge helps them become better spellers and writers.</p> <p>There are a number of amazing books available to read on our school website as well as on the Oxford Owl website.</p> <p>Please read daily and log all reading on BOOM READER.</p>
<p><b>Science</b></p> 	<p>As scientists, in this half term, pupils will learn about 'Living things and their habitats.' They will study a range of habitats and microhabitats and identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are best suited. Pupils will investigate how habitats provide the basic needs of animals and plants. Also, they will explore microhabitats in our local area asking scientific questions such as 'What is the temperature of a microhabitat?'</p>
<p><b>Computing</b></p> 	<p>In computing, pupils will develop their understanding of what information technology (IT) is and will begin to identify examples. They will discuss where they have seen IT in school and beyond, in settings such as shops, hospitals, and libraries. Pupils will then investigate how IT improves our world, and they will learn about the importance of using IT responsibly.</p>
<p><b>Geography</b></p> 	<p>As geographers, the children will be learning how to use an atlas to locate coastal areas of the UK. They will identify human and physical features and be able to discuss the similarities and differences. They will be using vocabulary such as; beach, landscape, coastline, Jurassic coast, forest, hill, mountain, ocean, and valley.</p>
<p><b>Design technology</b></p> 	<p>In DT, pupils will experience simple cutting, shaping and joining skills using scissors, glue, paper fasteners and masking tape. They will develop, model and communicate their ideas through drawings and mock-ups with cards and paper. Furthermore, the children will select and use tools, explaining their choices, to cut, shape and join paper and card. Following teacher demonstration of the correct use of tools and materials, children will develop their knowledge and skills by replicating the slider and lever teaching aids.</p>
<p><b>Music</b></p> 	<p>In our music lesson this half term, pupils will be having instrument lessons with Mrs Barrett. They will be using xylophones to grow their performing skills and confidence. This will encourage them to create music and encourage active listening.</p> <p>The children will use the instruments to follow a rhythm, understand how to keep a beat and adjust the tempo.</p>
<p><b>PSHE/RSE</b></p> 	<p>This year we will be using the 'No Outsiders' scheme alongside our existing PHSE/RSE curriculum. This will introduce each new unit with a related book that will spark conversations and questions.</p> <p>Our first unit is all about families and friends. The children will be focusing on the similarities between their family and others. They will be learning strategies for conflict resolution and how to make and be a good friend.</p>

<p><b>RE</b></p> 	<p>In this unit, pupils will explore different religious and spiritual ways of life about caring for other people and for the world. Through learning about the lives of believers such as Dr Barnardo, Mother Teresa, the Jewish practice of Tzedakah and Sukkot celebrations pupils will learn about how beliefs turn into actions for many religious and non-religious people.</p> <p>They will engage with stories and religious stories that people tell about the beginning of the world, how to treat the world, and why it matters when we care for others. They will develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses, as well as develop responses of their own.</p>
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<p><b>PE</b></p> 	<p>PE for Year 2 will be on Wednesdays. We ask all children to wear LTPS PE kit which is a plain white T shirt and plain black or navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms. Black trainers. All jewellery removed. Hair tied back. NO football kits of any description please.</p> <p>In PE lessons this half term, pupils will develop throwing techniques to help them improve their hand-eye coordination, balance, and spatial awareness. It also develops their upper body strength and flexibility. They will also engage in learning to catch to enhance hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and reaction time. It also encourages precise hand movements and body control. Incorporating throwing and catching activities into PE lessons not only helps children acquire these specific skills but also contributes to their overall physical development and well-being.</p>
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**Ideas to support your child's learning at home linked to our areas of learning this term:**

- ✓ Reading daily and logging this on Boom Reader.  
<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/class>
- ✓ Practicing weekly spellings linked to their phonics .
- ✓ Taking part in the TTRS battles.
- ✓ Explore your gardens, parks, fields and woodlands for microhabitats and discover which minibeasts live there.
- ✓ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fko1scfRQc> -micro habitat video.
- ✓ Practice counting forwards and backwards to and from 100. Count in steps of 2, 5, 10 and 3 as often as you can. Use everyday objects to help. Try to make it as fun as possible.
- ✓ <https://www.oddizzi.com/teachers/explore-the-world/country-close-up/united-kingdom/landscape/physical-features/coastline/> - Take a look at some of the fantastic resources available on Oddizzi to give you some more information about our coastline topic this half-term.

**Homework Project –** Children are asked to choose one of the projects below to complete.  
Please complete and return Homework projects by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Homework projects will be celebrated and shared in class from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

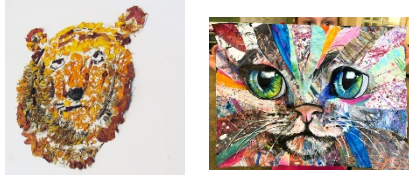
- 1. Create an Animal Fact File:** choose your favourite animal and create a fact file about it. You can include information about the animal's habitat, diet, appearance, and interesting facts.
- 2. Design a Wildlife Poster:** Design a colourful poster featuring different animals. You can draw or cut out pictures of animals from magazines and write a short description or fun facts about each one.
- 3. Write an Animal Adventure Story:** Write a short story about an animal going on an exciting adventure. You can use your imagination and include details about the animal's journey, the challenges they face, and how they overcome them.

**4. Create a Habitat Diorama:** Use a shoebox or any small box to create a diorama representing an animal's habitat. You can use coloured paper, clay, and small figurines to create the habitat and place the animal in it.




**5. Conduct Animal Research:** Choose an animal to research and gather information about it. You can present your findings using pictures, drawings, or a short oral presentation to the class at the end of this half term.

**6. Design an Animal Collage:** Create a collage using pictures of animals from magazines or printed images. You can arrange the pictures to form a larger picture or pattern, showcasing a variety of animals in your artwork.



**7. Be an explorer:** Explore your local area to hunt for habitats. What is it like? Who lives there? You could include labelled diagrams of the area or the creatures you find there.

**8. Compose a song about animals:** Write a song about your favourite animal that you could perform to the class, you could even play an instrument as well. 

**9. Write a poem about animals or habitats:** You can make a poem using rhyming words or animal noises ready to perform to the class.

**10. Perform an animal inspired dance:** Be inspired by the animal kingdom and create an animal dance ready to perform to the class.