

YEAR 2 Curriculum Blog

Autumn 2 2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another half term in Year 2, we are thankful for all your support throughout Autumn 1 especially with helping your child engage with all their home learning.

This term our topic is called '**Time Travellers**' which centers around historic imagination of a journey through time to witness historical events like the Apollo 11 mission carrying astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins on their historic journey.

We will be making links with our English unit during the fourth week, where we will focus on writing interesting facts about Neil Armstrong in an 'interview format'.

We look forward to collaborating with you this half term. 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 continue in Year2.

Warmest regards,
Mrs Deverell, Mrs Abegunde and Mrs Dessoy

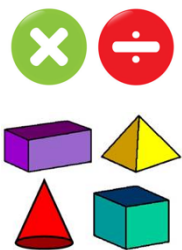
English



In Year 2, the children will embark on a fascinating journey through two captivating stories: "George and the Dragon" and the inspiring tale of Neil Armstrong. These literary adventures will provide them with rich opportunities to develop their reading and writing skills while delving into two vastly different but equally exciting narratives.

Throughout these two units, Year 2 pupils will improve their language and literacy skills but also gain exposure to diverse literary genres, from the fantastical tales of George and dragons to the awe-inspiring achievements of real-life heroes like Neil Armstrong. These units not only inspire a love for reading but also encourage children to dream big and reach for the stars in their own way, just like the characters and individuals they encounter in their English texts.

Mathematics



In Year 2 mathematics, pupils will continue with the addition and subtraction unit, as well as explore the fundamentals of 2D and 3D shapes. These topics are essential for building a strong mathematical understanding and problem-solving skills. As mathematicians, they will build upon their understanding of basic arithmetic concepts learned in Year 1 and deepen their comprehension of these operations by practicing mental calculations, using manipulatives, and solving real-world problems.

Geometry introduces pupils to the fascinating world of shapes, both flat and three-dimensional. In Year 2, they will explore the characteristics, properties, and classification of these shapes. By engaging in hands-on activities, visual aids, and discussions about shapes, they will develop spatial awareness and a solid foundation for later geometry studies.

RWI











In the Read Write Inc. (RWI) program, learners 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 spelling words linked to the RWI book, or with a spelling pattern. This knowledge helps them become better spellers and writers.

There are a number of amazing books available to read on our school website as well as on the Oxford Owl website. Please read daily and log all reading on **BOOM READER**.

Science

As scientists, they will learn about the life cycles of animals including humans—and what they need to survive, the human life cycle and the things all animals need to grow, thrive,

<p>Growth and Survival</p> 	<p>and survive. Also, they will learn about the reproduction and survival needs of all animals, how diet, exercise and rest are important for the health of humans.</p> <p>They will explore how animals reproduce and grow – and how their environment can affect their chances of thriving and surviving.</p>
<p>Computing</p> 	<p>This unit is called 'Digital photography'. They will learn to recognise that different devices can be used to capture photographs and will gain experience capturing, editing, and improving photos. They will use this knowledge to recognise that images they see may not be real.</p> <p>We will also introduce the concepts of light and focus as further important aspects of good photography composition. In this unit, they will investigate the effect that good lighting has on the quality of the photos they take and explore what effect using the camera flash and adding an artificial light source have on their photos.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>As historians, we will be learning about a fascinating journey through time, exploring the lives and achievements of two remarkable individuals: Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. These historical figures provide them with captivating stories that allow them to understand different periods of history and the concept of exploration and discovery.</p> <p>Christopher Columbus- They learn about his life, his journey across the Atlantic Ocean, and his significant role in connecting the Old World (Europe) and the New World (the Americas).</p> <p>Neil Armstrong- They will delve into the life and achievements of Neil Armstrong, the first person to set foot on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission in 1969.</p> <p>These units also encourage pupils to appreciate the courage and curiosity that drive people to explore the unknown, whether it's the vast oceans of the Earth or the endless expanse of outer space.</p>
<p>Art</p> 	<p>As an artist, this unit encourages exploration and creativity. They'll have the opportunity to experiment with different art materials, such as pencils, crayons, markers, and paints. These explorations are essential for discovering their preferences and building confidence in their artistic abilities.</p> <p>They will learn and practice the basic principles of drawing, including lines, shapes, and proportions. They'll create drawings of various subjects, from everyday objects to imaginative scenes. Also, pupils will learn to observe and replicate what they see in their environment. They will draw still-life arrangements or objects in their classroom, which enhances their ability to pay attention to details and improve their visual perception.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>This unit is themed around Christmas and having fun. They will learn to find the pulse as they listen, understand that songs have musical styles, and spoken words (rap). It builds on previous learning and focuses on the song 'Ho, Ho, Ho'- a Christmas song.</p> <p>In addition, they will recognise and name some musical instruments/ voices, enrich their understanding of the theme, while deepening their musical knowledge and experience.</p>
<p>PSHE/RSE</p> 	<p>In Year 2, children embark on an important journey of personal and social development, which includes learning to respect themselves and others, recognising similarities and differences, playing, and working cooperatively, and sharing their opinions. These essential life skills lay the foundation for healthy relationships and effective communication.</p> <p>This half term, they will be introduced to the idea that people come from diverse backgrounds, each with their own unique qualities and perspectives. They learn to celebrate both commonalities and differences, promoting tolerance and inclusivity.</p>

	By fostering respect, recognition of differences, cooperation, and open communication to help them develop into well-rounded individuals who are equipped to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world.
RE 	<p>In RE, they will continue to engage with Autumn 1's unit on 'How we should care for others, and the world' and learn about religious stories that people tell about caring for others and how to treat the world.</p> <p>Next, they will learn about 'How and why we celebrate special times' where they will learn about festivals in Christianity, including Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Pentecost. Also, they will learn about the significance of festivals to the Jewish way of life and what they mean, e.g., Shabbat. and about how Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr as the completion of a month of fasting (Ramadan)</p>
PE 	<p>This half term, PE unit focusing on dribbling, kicking, and hitting skills. This unit is designed to enhance your child's physical development, coordination, and teamwork abilities.</p> <p>They will learn how to control a ball while moving (dribbling), accurately kick a ball (kicking), and use hand-eye coordination to hit objects with a racket or hand (hitting). We encourage you to support their learning by practicing these skills at home and discussing the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship.</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 navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms. Black trainers. All jewellery removed. Hair tied back. NO football kits of any description please.</p>

Ideas to support your child's learning at home linked to our areas of learning this term:

- ✓ Why not visit your local library to look at History books on Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus.
- ✓ Please visit <https://trockstars.com/> to complete times table challenges. (In Year 2, we need know 2x,5x,3x and 10x)
- ✓ Use your digital device to capture photographs and use your available app to practice editing and improving your photos.
- ✓ Visit www.oxfordowl.co.uk to choose a selection of RWI reading books and remember to log your daily reading on Boom reader!
- ✓

Homework Project – Children are asked to choose one of the projects below to complete.

Please complete and return Homework projects by **Friday 8th December**. Homework projects will be celebrated and shared in class **from Monday 11th December**.

1. **Astronaut's Journal (Neil Armstrong):** Imagine you are an astronaut on a mission to the moon with Neil Armstrong. Create an astronaut's journal where they document their journey to the moon. You can include diary entries, drawings, and descriptions of the moon's surface.
2. **Time-Traveler's Interview (Neil Armstrong or Christopher Columbus):** Prepare a list of questions you would ask Neil Armstrong or Christopher Columbus if you could travel back in time and interview them.
3. **Moon Landing Diorama (Neil Armstrong):** Create a diorama showing the moment when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon. You can use craft materials, clay, or even recycled materials to construct a miniature moon surface, astronauts, and the lunar module.



4. **Explorer's Map (Christopher Columbus):** Create an explorer's map that traces Christopher Columbus's voyages. You can draw and label the continents, oceans, and the routes taken by Columbus on different voyages.
5. **Historical Costume Design (Neil Armstrong or Christopher Columbus):** Design a costume that Neil Armstrong or Christopher Columbus might have worn during their historic journeys. You can use fabric scraps, paper, and art supplies to create a costume design.

6. **Explorer's Scrapbook (Christopher Columbus):** Invite your child to create an explorer's scrapbook that chronicles Christopher Columbus's life and voyages. You can include pictures, maps, and descriptions of his ships, discoveries, and encounters with indigenous peoples.

7. **Moon Landing Simulation (Neil Armstrong):** Organize a pretend "moon landing" in your garden or a safe outdoor space. You can dress up as an astronaut (or use a toy astronaut), set up a lunar surface with rocks and sand, and reenact the famous moon landing. You might want to send a photo or short video to the class dojo!

