

Year 2, Summer 1, Curriculum Learning

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a wonderful and restful break. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school, ready to begin Summer 1 with enthusiasm and positivity.

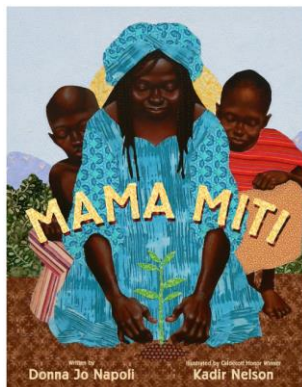
This half term promises to be a busy and rewarding one for our Year 2 pupils. As we move further through the year, the children will continue to build on their learning, develop greater independence, and grow in confidence across all areas of the curriculum. We have a range of engaging topics and activities planned to motivate and inspire them as they approach the final term of the academic year.

We look forward to seeing the progress the children will make and to sharing their achievements with you over the coming weeks. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

English:

This term, Year 2 pupils will be exploring the inspiring book *Little People, Big Dreams: David Attenborough*, learning about the life and achievements Sir David Attenborough. As part of this unit, children will write a non-chronological report, focusing on using subordinating conjunctions to extend their ideas, writing in the correct tense, and maintaining a consistent third-person perspective. Pupils will take a deep dive into his extraordinary life, becoming “experts” and using rich, descriptive vocabulary to bring their writing to life, including crafting a personal diary entry imagining a day in his life.

They will also broaden their understanding by exploring other environmentalists such as Jane Goodall and Wangari Maathai, reflecting on what they have read and learning to express their own opinions respectfully using phrases such as “I agree/disagree... because...”. It is important that pupils are exposed to significant, diverse female characters in their reading journeys.



Our second text, *There's an Orangutan in My Bedroom*, highlights the impact of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest and links to the work of Greenpeace. Inspired by this, pupils will become eco-warriors and campaigners, using their voices to protect our planet while writing their own well-sequenced rainforest narratives featuring original animal characters.

In handwriting, we are beginning to learn simple diagonal joins as part of the early stages of joined writing; pupils are not expected to write fully joined yet, so please be patient as they focus on accurate letter formation and gradually apply these new skills.

All children will continue to take part in regular handwriting and spelling lessons in school, and we strongly encourage additional practice at home as part of their home learning. This half term, there will be a particular emphasis on developing neat, fluent handwriting. As pupils strengthen their handwriting skills, they can devote more attention to expressing their ideas rather than thinking about letter formation and presentation. Consistent practice and encouragement, both in school and at home, will support your child in building confidence and writing more smoothly and independently.

End of year 2 Handwriting expectations:

- form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
 - start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
 - write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower case letters
 - use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.
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Reading:

Pupils will take part in daily reading lessons aimed at strengthening fluency, deepening comprehension, and developing a secure understanding of a range of texts. Each child will bring home a levelled reading book (Big Cat book). In our reading sessions, we will study a text together, practise independent reading of selected extracts, and engage in discussion through carefully planned questions that develop key reading skills. The children will build their use of ambitious vocabulary, explore characters' thoughts and actions using evidence from the text, make sensible predictions, retrieve key information, sequence and summarise events, and justify their answers using what they have read.



In our reading lessons at school, we will be looking at comprehension skills.

These skills are best remembered using the acronym **VIPERS**.

V – Vocabulary: Understanding the meaning of words in the text.

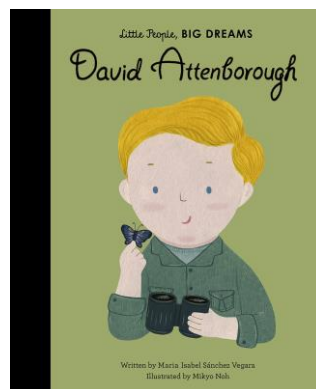
I – Inference: Working out what characters are thinking or feeling.

P – Predict: Using clues to guess what might happen next.

E – Explain: Explaining ideas or events using evidence from the text.

R – Retrieve: Finding information directly from the text.

S – Summarise/Sequence: Summarising the main events or putting them in order.



Core book challenge:

We are now more than halfway through our Core Book Challenge and encourage all families to continue reading and creating an excitement around the core book challenges in your regular home learning routines. Pupils are working towards completing 30 books by the end of the school year, reflecting on each one in their Tell Me Grid booklets. If you need any additional resources, booklets, or books to support your child with the challenge, please don't hesitate to come and speak with us—we're always happy to help!

Maths:

Our maths topics this half term will include fractions and time.

In our work on fractions, children will learn about halves, quarters, and thirds of shapes, objects, and amounts. They will explore how to divide shapes and sets into equal parts and begin to understand that a fraction represents a part of a whole. Children will also compare and order simple fractions and start to recognise equivalent fractions in practical contexts. Through hands-on activities, games, and problem-solving tasks, they will develop confidence in using mathematical vocabulary such as numerator, denominator, whole, part, and equal.

In our learning about time, children will practise reading and recording time using both analogue and digital clocks. They will learn to tell the time to the nearest hour, half hour, quarter hour, and five minutes. We will also explore units of time, including seconds, minutes, and hours, and learn about the number of minutes in an hour and hours in a day. Children will develop an understanding of duration by solving problems involving the passage of time and sequencing events in chronological order.

Throughout the term, children will take part in practical activities, investigations, and games to help them apply their understanding in real-life contexts. They will develop reasoning and problem-solving skills by explaining their thinking and using mathematical language.

You can support your child at home by talking about time throughout the day, such as discussing what time daily routines happen or how long activities take and by encouraging them to notice and discuss fractions in everyday situations, such as sharing food or dividing items equally. These everyday experiences help make learning meaningful and build confidence.

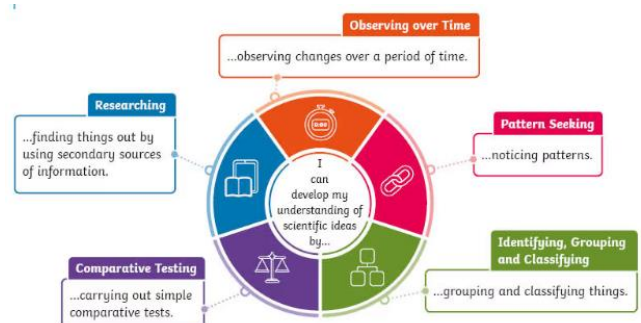
Science:

In Science this term, Year 2 will be exploring plants. Children will learn about the different parts of a plant and the important jobs they do, including roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and seeds. They will investigate what plants need to grow well, including water, light, and a suitable temperature.

Throughout the unit, pupils will observe plants closely and explore how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants. They will learn about the life cycle of plants and understand that plants are living things that grow and change over time. Through practical activities and investigations, children will develop their scientific enquiry skills by observing changes, asking questions, and recording what they notice.

Children will also learn key scientific vocabulary to describe plant parts and processes, and they will begin to explain what they observe using simple scientific language. Where possible, learning will include hands-on experiences such as planting seeds, observing growth over time, and comparing different plants.

You can support your child's learning at home by looking at plants in the garden, local park, or on walks. Encourage them to talk about what they can see, how plants change, and what plants need to stay healthy. These experiences will help deepen their understanding and bring our classroom learning to life.



Geography:

This term in Geography, Year 2 pupils have been exploring life in the Amazon rainforest through the study of the Yanomami people, an indigenous group living in remote areas of northern Brazil and southern Venezuela. Children have learned how the Yanomami live sustainably, using the rainforest's natural resources to hunt, grow crops, and build large circular homes called yanos. They discovered that the Yanomami community values equality, with no chiefs or leaders, and that families work together to thrive in their environment without modern technology. This fascinating topic has helped pupils understand how people live differently around the world, while also highlighting the importance of protecting the rainforest for both local communities and the wider planet.

Art:

This half term in Art, Year 2 children will be exploring 3D sculpture, taking inspiration from the art of the Indigenous people of Australia and the work of contemporary sculptor John Kindness. Children will begin by learning how art can be used to tell stories about places, culture and beliefs. They will explore traditional Australian Indigenous dot painting, learning about the meaning of patterns, symbols and colours. Using cotton buds and paint, pupils will experiment with creating dot designs and repeated patterns inspired by this style. The children will then move on to working in three dimensions, learning how sculptors shape and join materials to make artworks. They will design and create their own fish sculptures, inspired by John Kindness' sculpture Big Fish. Pupils will first make a maquette (a small practice model) to plan their ideas, before building a larger sculpture using cardboard, newspaper and paper-mâché techniques. This will help them understand shape, form, balance and structure. Once constructed, the sculptures will be carefully decorated using dot patterns and colours inspired by Indigenous Australian art. Throughout the unit, children will be encouraged to talk about their ideas, reflect on their work and make thoughtful comments about the artwork of others.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE):

This term in PSHE, Year 2 pupils will be learning about relationships through the Jigsaw scheme of work. The unit helps children understand what makes positive and healthy relationships with friends, family, and other important people in their lives. Children will explore how to make and maintain friendships, how to recognise kind and unkind behaviour, and how to resolve small disagreements in a calm and respectful way. This unit also explores the concept of exploring physical contact and keeping safe. They will also learn about the importance of listening, sharing, and showing care and respect for others. The unit encourages pupils to develop empathy, understand different feelings, and think about how their actions can affect others. Through discussion, role-play, and stories, children will build confidence in managing relationships and working well with

others. This learning supports children in developing important life skills such as communication, cooperation, and emotional understanding.

French

Building on last term's learning, we are pleased to continue offering French as our Modern Foreign Language (MFL) in Year 2. We are lucky to have Tom, our specialist French teacher from Mulberry London Dock, who teaches the children every Monday. Although French is not a statutory subject in Year 2, we are proud to provide this valuable opportunity to enrich our pupils' learning.

This term, children will continue developing their language skills by learning how to describe themselves and others, take part in simple conversations, and match spoken French to written words.

Computing:

This term in computing, Year 2 pupils will explore a range of popular music genres from the past 60 years using the app GarageBand during the iJam Lite L2 unit. They will learn how different styles of music are created, identify key instruments and sounds, and begin to understand how genre influences the feel of a piece of music. Pupils will revisit key skills from previous learning before being introduced to genres such as Blues, Rock 'n' Roll, Dance, Electronic, Hip-Hop/Urban, and World music. They will listen to examples, learn about the history and features of each style, and begin to recognise how music is shaped by culture and experience. Using GarageBand and its 'Live Loops' feature, children will create their own music in different genres, experimenting with sounds, filters, and musical structure. As the unit progresses, they will also explore how different genres can be combined to create multi-genre compositions. The unit will finish with pupils creating and showcasing their own final music pieces, followed by opportunities to listen to, evaluate, and improve their work through constructive feedback.

Music:

In music, children will be learning to play Boomwhackers. This course focuses on learning a new instrument in a fun, creative, and engaging way. Boomwhackers are colourful tuned percussion tubes that allow children to explore music-making as part of a group ensemble. Through playing together, pupils will have the chance to recreate familiar songs as well as compose their own pieces, encouraging both creativity and

teamwork.

Children will experience playing different parts within a Boomwhacker ensemble, helping them discover which roles they enjoy most and building their confidence as musicians. Each song is taught using colour-coded notation, making the learning accessible for all children, including those who may find reading traditional musical notation challenging. This approach ensures every child can take part, enjoy success, and develop a love of music.

Alongside learning to play, children will develop key musical skills such as rhythm, timing, listening, and working together as a group. Most importantly, they will have fun experimenting with sound, building confidence, and discovering the joy of making music with others.

Physical Education (PE):

In PE, children will be learning how to play quick cricket. Pupils will be taught the key techniques and skills needed to develop and improve their basic game. This includes learning the fundamental skills of batting, beginning with simple drills to build confidence and technique, before progressing to striking a moving ball. Through these activities, pupils will develop their hand-eye coordination, which is an essential skill in cricket and many other sports. Children will also learn and practice the key skills of throwing, catching, and ground fielding, helping them to become more confident and effective fielders. Alongside these core cricket skills, pupils will develop important physical attributes such as coordination, agility, balance, and quick reactions. These skills not only support their cricket development but also contribute to overall fitness, confidence, and enjoyment of physical activity.

They will also be engaging in athletics. Year 2 pupils will develop a range of skills including running, jumping, and throwing with different athletic equipment. Children will practise different running techniques such as sprinting, changing direction, and maintaining pace over short distances. They will explore jumping for distance and height, focusing on balance, coordination, and control. Pupils will also develop their throwing skills using a range of techniques to improve accuracy and distance. Through fun and engaging activities, children will build their strength, stamina, and agility, while learning the importance of warming up, teamwork, and perseverance. This unit encourages children to challenge themselves, build confidence, and celebrate their personal progress.

This term we will be doing the following:

Weekly PE lessons	Monday and Thursday both classes
Spelling	Monday (spell check- Friday)
Celebration assembly	Every Friday
Give me 10	Every Tuesdays 8:50-9:05

Homework:

Please continue to support your child at home and give them valuable extra practice to strengthen the skills they're learning at school. As previous, Year 2 's home learning will involve weekly spellings and daily reading of your child's levelled book. The additional books in their book bags can also be used for home reading as well as access to your **Oxford owl** online accounts for additional books. Your child should also be accessing **Times Tables Rockstars to practising their number fluency on timetables**. All children have been given a login, please ask if there are any issues. You can access additional home learning resources via Mulberry Learn.

[Mulberry Learn – Mulberry Wood Wharf](#)

Our half-term home project:

Explore the wonderful rainforest habitat. We would like you to create a fact file for your favourite rainforest animal. You can showcase your learning about the rainforest by create an extraordinary model, poster, painting or artwork of the rainforest. Don't forget to include an animal that you would like to become an expert on, just like David Attenborough.

Daily reminders:

Our uniform consists of:

- A purple sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Purple or white polo shirt with school logo
- Black trousers, black skirt or black pinafore
- Lilac/purple school gingham dress (summer)
- **Black shoes**
- If a headscarf is worn this should be black, white or purple.

Please can you write your child's name on all clothing items.

Water

Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school.

Bookbag – Please check regularly and take out letters and communication. Pupils should bring their reading wallet to school **daily**.

This should carry the reading wallet with:

- Class library book.
- levelled reading book - Big Cat Book/RWI Book
- Reading Record
- Core Book Challenge
- Homework book containing spelling and handwriting

Important dates:

Tuesday 28th April – ‘Changing Me’ RSE Parent meeting 9am

Tuesday 28th / 29th April – Parents evening

Friday 1st May – Local art trip for observational drawings

Friday 1st May – Mini London Marathon

Monday 5th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)

Wednesday 6th May – Class photographs

Monday 18th May 3:45 – Parent workshop for end of KS1 expectations

Tuesday 19th May – Dance performances with Effy

Wednesday 20th May – National Numeracy Day

Friday 22nd May – Last day before half term

Science Vocabulary

☰ Tier 2 multiple meaning or high frequency		☰ Tier 3 subject specific	
wither	become dry and shrivelled	germination	when a seed starts to grow
dormant	alive but not growing	perennial	living for several years
mature	fully grown	carbon dioxide	gas absorbed by plants
bulb	rounded base of the stem of some plants	glucose	simple sugar used for energy by plants
anchor	to fix firmly in position	clone	make an identical copy from the cells of a living thing
sustain	keep something going over time		