

Year 2, Spring 2, Curriculum Learning

Dear families,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half term break. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school refreshed, enthusiastic, and ready for **Spring 2** in Year 2.

This half term is set to be another busy and exciting one. The children will continue building on the knowledge and skills they have developed so far this year, while exploring new topics designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and confidence in their learning. Across all subjects, we have engaging activities and experiences planned to challenge and inspire them.

Your ongoing support at home plays a vital role in your child's progress. Please continue to read regularly with your child and discuss their understanding of the text. In addition, practising key maths skills is essential — logging into **TT Rockstars** each week will help develop quick recall of multiplication and division facts in a fun and motivating way. Little and often practice really makes a difference.

We are excited for the weeks ahead and look forward to celebrating the children's hard work and achievements with you through our usual updates and communications. Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support.

Commented [SB1]: lovely opener!

English:

In English, Year 2 pupils will begin by exploring Aesop's fable *The Sun and the Wind*. They will learn the story, retell it in their own words, and then innovate their own short narrative inspired by the fable. Building on this, pupils will take part in a cross-curricular writing project linked to their history learning about the Docklands. They will create a non-chronological report about the Docklands today and then imagine themselves as a character wandering the docks in Victorian times, giving them the opportunity to explore diary writing and descriptive writing. Throughout the term, we will focus on developing handwriting, encouraging pupils to write with greater ease and fluency. Pupils will also extend their sentences using rich vocabulary and apply their understanding of different sentence types. We will celebrate a "Star Writer of the Week" in school, recognising pupils who have shown improvement in their writing, demonstrated genuine excitement for writing, and displayed excellent transcription 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:

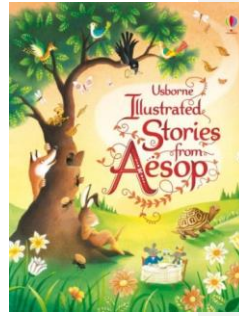
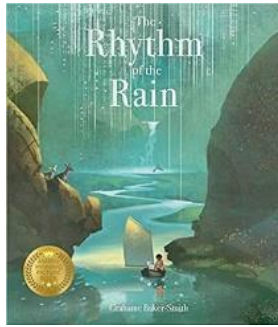
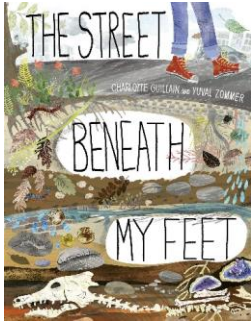
- form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another
- start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined
- write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation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

Commented [SB2]: Great that you have added this

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.





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!

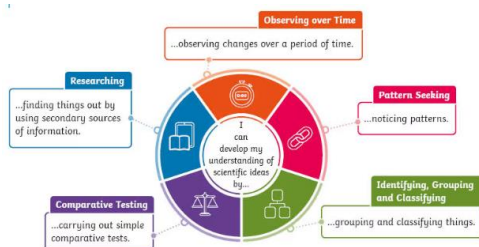
Maths:

We will start this term continuing our multiplication and division topic. Children will learn to identify odd and even numbers, learn to multiply by 5 and 10, as well as dividing by 5 and 10. They will practise writing multiplication sentences and use arrays to help them visualise problems. By the end of the unit, children will have a secure understanding of multiplication and be able to use it confidently in a range of situations.

Our next unit will be Length and Height. Children will investigate measuring their own height and comparing it with others, as well as measuring and comparing the length and height of different objects. They will use a range of tools, including rulers, metre sticks and tape measures, and learn to measure accurately in centimetres (cm) and metres (m). Key skills will include estimating, measuring, comparing and reading scales correctly. They will also learn to avoid common errors, such as starting measurements from the wrong point. By the end of the unit, children will be able to apply these skills confidently in practical contexts.

Finally, children will look at mass, temperature and capacity. Pupils will measure and compare mass using grams (g) and kilograms (kg), and capacity using millilitres (ml) and litres (l), using practical equipment such as scales and measuring jugs. They will also read and compare temperature using thermometers, understanding that temperature is measured in degrees Celsius (°C). Across these topics, children will develop key skills such as estimating, measuring accurately, comparing, reading scales correctly and avoiding common errors, such as starting from the wrong point. By the end of these units, children will confidently apply their measurement skills in a range of practical contexts.

Science:



In Science, we will be revisiting our topic on Living Things and Their Habitats. Children will build on their earlier learning by identifying and naming a variety of plants and animals in different habitats, including microhabitats. They will explore how living things are suited to their environments and understand that different habitats provide for the basic needs of animals and plants.

Pupils will have opportunities to observe closely, ask simple questions, and gather and record data to help them compare habitats. They will also learn about simple food chains and describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals. By the end of the unit, children will have a deeper understanding of how living things depend on their habitats and on each other to survive. Pupils will develop their working scientifically skills by carrying out investigations.

We will also be marking British Science week this term and exploring different roles and significant individuals in science and STEM and how we use science in our everyday lives. Pupils will also get the chance to show their inventions that they can have created at home.

History:

In History, we will be learning about the history of the London Docklands and visiting the London Docklands Museum as this half term's trip! Children will explore how this area has changed over time, from a busy centre of trade and shipping to the modern developments we see today. They will learn about the types of goods that passed through the docks, the jobs people did, and why the docks were so important to London and the wider world. Pupils will also examine why the docks declined and how the area was regenerated. Through photographs, maps, and historical sources, children will develop their understanding of how and why places change over time. By the end of the unit, they will be able to describe key events in the Docklands' history and explain how the past has shaped the area today.

Art

In Art, Year 2 pupils will be exploring Textiles and Collage. During this unit, children will create abstract artwork using a wide range of materials, including fabric, paper, yarn, paint and found objects. They will revisit previously learned techniques such as printing, rubbings, wax resist and stencilling, and apply these skills in new and creative ways.

The children will experiment with manipulating materials by poking, pulling, threading and weaving to create interesting textures and effects. They will also learn how to construct a reconstructed collage, selecting and arranging pre-used images from magazines and prepared papers to create a balanced composition.

We will look at the work of artists including Henri Matisse, who described collage as "painting with scissors", Eric Carle, and contemporary artist Katie Vernon. Children will discuss and respond to these artists' work, developing their vocabulary to describe texture, colour and composition.

By the end of the unit, pupils will be able to select and combine materials thoughtfully, explain the techniques they have used and reflect on their artistic choices with confidence.

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

In PSHE, our topic *Healthy Me* will focus on helping children understand how to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices. Pupils will learn about balanced diets, the importance of regular exercise, and ways to keep their bodies and minds healthy. They will also explore simple relaxation techniques and learn about the safe use of medicines.

Through practical activities such as sorting different food groups, designing healthy snacks and following simple recipes, children will discover how food provides energy

and helps keep their bodies strong. The unit will also encourage pupils to think about staying active, managing different feelings, and developing supportive friendships.

Using resources such as Jigsaw Jo and their Jigsaw Journals, children will build the knowledge and skills needed to look after themselves and make healthy, positive choices in their everyday lives.

Religious Education (RE):

This half term, we will continue exploring sacred festivals and how families celebrate special occasions. We will read stories from the holy books of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism that explain the origins of these traditional festivities. We will explore Easter, Ramadan and Eid ul Fitr. If they are any upcoming festivities you are celebrating with your family, please inform us so that we can join in with the celebrations too.

French

Following on from last term's learning, we are excited to continue providing French as our Modern Foreign Language (MFL) in Year 2. We are fortunate to have Tom, our specialist French teacher from Mulberry London Dock, who teaches the children each Monday. While French is not a statutory requirement in Year 2, we are proud to offer this enriching experience to broaden our pupils' learning. Children will continue to learn how to describe themselves and others, how to have a simple conversation and matching spoken words to written French.

Computing:

This term, with Junior Jam instructor Ridwan, pupils will be exploring the exciting world of 2D and hand-drawn animation. They will learn how simple drawings can be brought to life using digital tools, including the Do Ink Animation app. Children will also animate a given storyline using Scratch Jr, combining coding skills with their creativity.

Throughout the course, pupils will learn what 2D animation is and how it differs from 3D, computer-generated animation. They will explore key concepts such as frames and movement, understanding how a sequence of images creates the illusion of motion. As part of their learning, children will create their own animated LEGO figure and produce a traditional flip book to demonstrate how animation works.

By the end of the unit, pupils will have a clear understanding of the difference between 2D and 3D animation and will be able to plan and create their own simple

animations with growing confidence and creativity.

Music:

This term in music, with Junior Jam instructor Dolvani, pupils will be taking part in an exciting percussion course. They will explore a range of percussion instruments and take part in engaging activities designed to develop their musical skills and understanding. Throughout the unit, children will learn important musical vocabulary such as tempo and dynamics, and explore how music can be loud, quiet, fast, or slow. The course aims to build confidence and strengthen pupils' sense of rhythm.

They will learn to understand and use the terms of rhythm and tempo, follow directions from a conductor, and count beats accurately in time. Children will practice reading and performing rhythms that include crotchets, quavers, minims and rests, and will also have opportunities to compose their own simple rhythmic patterns and soundscapes.

By the end of the unit, pupils will have developed a greater understanding of percussion instruments and how to play and create music using them independently and confidently.

Physical Education (PE):

In PE, with Junior Jam instructor Thomas, pupils will learn the basic skills of football, including dribbling, passing, shooting, tackling and teamwork. Through fun, non-competitive activities, they will build confidence and develop control when moving and stopping the ball. By the end of the unit, children will understand the difference between passing and shooting and be able to apply their skills in small games. They will also be continuing their Tennis sessions on Mondays. The children have been really enjoying learning the basic skills of how to throw the ball, handle the racket and hitting the ball to their partner. We are very excited to see how many more skills they learn this half term.

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 is The History of the London Docklands – Shoebox Challenge!

For your home project, we would like you to create a **shoebox model** showing something important about the Docklands, past or present! Use a shoebox to create a **mini Docklands scene**. You can choose one of the ideas below or think of your own!

Commented [SB3]: great idea, cant wait to see them!

1. The Docklands in the Past (Victorian Times)

You could include:

- A dock with water
- A large ship
- Cranes lifting cargo
- Wooden crates and barrels
- Dock workers loading and unloading goods



Think about: What jobs did people do? What did the docks look like?

2. Docklands Today

You could include:

- Tall buildings like those in Canary Wharf
- The River Thames
- Bridges or boats
- The Docklands Light Railway (DLR)



Think about: How is it different from the past?



3. Then and Now

Be creative! You could split your shoebox into two sides:

- One side showing the Docklands long ago
- The other side showing the Docklands today

Please include a small label or short paragraph (3–5 sentences) explaining:

- What your model shows
- Whether it is from the past or present
- One interesting fact about the London Docklands

Submission date: Monday 23rd March

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:

Monday 2nd March - Global food stories

- Friday 6th MARCH – Dress up for World Book Day
- Monday 9th March – British Science Week (Calling all inventors)
- Tuesday 10th March – Stem Day
- Wednesday 11th March – Author visit and Cosy Read event
- Monday 23rd March 2026 - Trip to London Docklands Museum
- Friday 27th March - Last day of term school closes at 1pm

Commented [SB4]: YES! there it is! perhaps add in the history section too?

Science Vocabulary

Vocabulary for explicit instruction



Tier 2 multiple meaning or high frequency		Tier 3 subject specific	
thrive	to grow and be strong	oxygen	gas essential to life
depend	to rely on	nutrition	process of taking in food
producer	something that makes its own food	respiration	process of using oxygen to release energy from food
consume	to eat, drink or use up	sensitivity	ability to detect and respond to changes
prey	animal hunted by another animal for food	reproduction	process of making new life
predator	animal that hunts others for food	excretion	process of expelling waste

History Vocabulary

Word	Meaning / Explanation
Docklands	An area of London next to the River Thames where ships used to load and unload goods.
River Thames	The river that runs through London.
Local history	Learning about important places and events near where we live.
Significant	Important and worth remembering.
Past	Something that has already happened.
Trade	Buying and selling goods.
Goods	Items that are bought and sold (for example: food, wood, cloth).
Dock	A place where ships stop to load and unload goods.
Warehouse	A large building used to store goods.
Dock worker	A person who worked loading and unloading ships.
Industry	Work and businesses that make or move goods.
Present	Now – the time we are living in.
Change	When something becomes different over time.
Compare	To look at what is the same and what is different.
Similar	The same or nearly the same.