

Welcome to Year 2



Welcome back! After the longest and strangest Summer break on record. A time when we would usually invite you in for a meet the teacher evening, we are having to re-think many of our usual practices. So I have tried to sum up what lies ahead, what to expect and some key information that I hope you will find useful.

Meet the team



Miss Shutt

Class Teacher and
Mathematics Lead



Mrs Fazackerly

Teaching Assistant
with many years
experience in Year 2.



Mrs McNulty

Will cover the class
when Miss Shutt has
her planning time.

Phonics Screen Check: A quick screening to see if your child is at the expected reading level. This would normally be administered at the end of Year 1. However, due to COVID 19 it was put on hold and therefore will take place during the Autumn Term of Year 2. During the check, children are asked to read (decode) 40 words. Most of these words are real words but some are pseudo-words (fake/alien). I will send home some activities to support your child with this over the next couple of weeks.

SATs: In May 2021 Your child will sit their SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests).

They will take SATs in:

Reading (regular practise and stamina is required to tackle these)

- Paper 1 consists of a selection of texts totalling 400 to 700 words, with questions interspersed
- Paper 2- comprises a reading booklet of a selection of passages totalling 800 to 1100 words. Children will write their answers in a separate booklet.

English grammar, punctuation and spelling

- 20-word spelling test
- a grammar, punctuation and vocabulary test

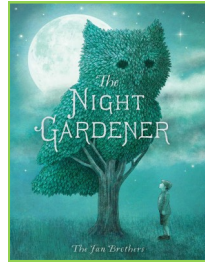
Maths

- Paper 1-arithmetic
- Paper 2- mathematical fluency, problem-solving and reasoning

Although the thought of SATs can be rather daunting, our aim in Year 2 is to prepare the children in a fun and engaging manner. Selecting books and topics that are both appealing and informative. We will administer the tests in the classroom in a low-stress, low-key way; some children won't even be aware they've taken them!

This Autumn our texts are 'A River' and 'The Night Gardener'

Although we would prefer it if you didn't read these particular books before we do at school, as sometimes it is a slow reveal to maintain tension and suspense. We do have a list of books with a familiar theme that you could lookout for.



Suggested Reading

A Very angry Ladybug -Eric Carle
Mr Grumpy's Outing-John Burningham
Peace at Last- Jill Murphy
Feathers- Phil Cummings
10 seeds- Ruth Brown
Why Mosquitoes Buzz- Verna Aardema
In People's Ears
Who is the Bear?- Keith Baker
The Journey Home- Frann Preston-Gannon
Jemmy Button- Valerio Vidali
Journey- Aaron Becker
Lost and Found- Oliver Jeffers
Goat on a Boat- Leslie Simms
Where the Forest Meets the Sea- Jeannie Baker
Also look out for Non-fiction books about the tropical rainforest

Mathematics -We believe that all children when introduced to a new concept should have the opportunity to build competency by taking the CPA approach, Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract. **Concrete**- using apparatus to help them understand what they are doing, **Pictorial**-pictures and representations that the children can use/draw to help solve a question/problem and finally **Abstract** children can draw upon their understanding of both concrete and pictorial representations to solve a number sentence using numbers and symbols or in the form of a written word problem.



Place Value- understanding the value of each digit in the numbers 1-100, counting, representing, comparing, ordering and writing numbers.

Counting forwards and backwards in steps of 1,2,3, 5,10

Addition and Subtraction- Fact families of bonds to 20, check calculations, use related facts, develop efficient strategies for both addition and subtraction.

Measurement-Money recognising all coins & notes- their values and solving problems in the context of place value and addition and subtraction e.g. total, difference, change.

Multiplication and Division-Making equal groups-understanding multiplication as repeated addition, arrays, 2,3,5,10 times tables.

Reading

One of the basic reasons why reading is important is that it helps you grow mentally, emotionally and psychologically. Every book gives you an opportunity to learn new things and explore new ideas. Reading books increases your knowledge and makes you smarter.

Your child will be assigned a reading day (written on their diary-we are just working this out at the moment and completing some assessments, so should be very soon). They will bring home one phonics reading book a week (Big Cat Phonics) which will be changed on their reading day. A few pages may have been read from this book in school, but there are lots of useful activities on the front and back inside covers. If you would like a plain exercise book to complete these activities please just sent me a request on Seesaw.

Your child will also bring home a 'free choice reader' which will be around the same level, however there may be some words that they struggle to decode, or need support with. So don't be alarmed if they don't seem as fluent with this book. The idea is for them to enjoy the story and to gain pleasure from reading a book they have chosen for themselves.

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You might also notice bubbles like these at the bottom of your child's reading diary. These are either words they should be able to recognise by sight (no sounding out) i.e. high frequency words -words that appear frequently in texts, so therefore we should know. Or common exception words/ tricky words, that even if we do try and sound them out they won't make any sense, so we have to learn them off by heart. We might also write a digraph/trigraph (a sound two or three letters make when together). If they appear at the bottom of your child's diary this means they have struggled with them in today's book and they will be tested on them in their next reading session. So make sure they have practiced them at home.

Topic Our Wonderful World- Starting with 'our home'

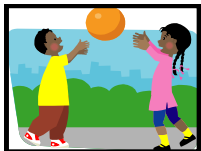
In this topic the children will learn about the 4 nations that make up the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. We will go on an imaginary tour of London and then visit the four nations learning about their key physical and key human features. They will contribute to 4 collage posters describing the 4 countries and their traditions. They will also participate in a St George's Day Pageant, Highland Games, Eisteddfod and Belfast Lord Mayor's Parade. This topic offers a huge selection of creative activities that will bring to life the geographical knowledge about the UK's countries capital cities and its surrounding seas.



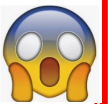
The more that you **READ**,
the more things you will **know**.

The more that you **LEARN**,
the more places you'll **go**.

Dr Seuss



PE is every **Friday** and you have all done so well in remembering that the children are to come to school in their PE kit on those days. Preferably not in expensive tracksuits and trainers as we might have arts and crafts on the same day. They should be wearing their usual PE t-shirt (white) and a pair of jogging bottoms in navy blue or black. You can pair these with a matching jacket/jumper or their school jumper.



The children can bring a school bag with them which is useful to ensure their reading pack is in school each day. They will also need to remember a water bottle each day.



Homework will be sent out on a Friday and expected back in school no later than Wednesday.



Communication and updates Communication is a key element in ensuring that the children have a happy and successful time in Key Stage One. We have a variety of means of communication alongside parents' meetings: A member of the team will be at the door at the start and end of the school day where you can pass on messages and talk with class teachers. Teachers can be contacted for any non-urgent matters via Seesaw so make sure you are signed up.

Thank you for your continued support. Kind regards, Miss Shutt