



Autumn Term Newsletter 2025

Year 2

"With Christ as our guide, we inspire and thrive".

Welcome: Welcome back to the start of the new school term! Our Year 2 team this year consists of Mrs Johnson, Mrs Rudman (Wednesdays), Miss Redwin and Mrs Bakkes, and we are all really looking forward to working with you and your children throughout the year. PE will take place on Mondays, so children should arrive at school dressed in their sports uniform on that day. Reading books will be changed every Monday; however, we ask that children bring their reading books and reading records into school every day, as we listen to the children read regularly. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to any member of the Year 2 team.

Religious Education: During the Autumn Term, we will be following our Religious Education curriculum, *To Know You More Clearly*. In the first half of the term, we will focus on Branch 1 – Creation and Covenant. The children will read the story of Noah and learn about God's covenant (promise) with Noah and all living things, symbolised by the rainbow. We will also explore the meaning of Baptism as the first sacrament that welcomes people into the Christian family. As part of our learning, we will reflect on how we can care for God's world through stewardship and how this links to caring for one another.

In the second half of the term, we will move on to Branch 2 – Prophecy and Promise. Here, we will learn that prophets and prophetesses were inspired by the Holy Spirit to share God's message. We will explore the season of Advent and understand how Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We will also learn how Catholic Social Teaching can guide us to share kindness and hope—'to share the light'—with others.

Mathematics: Below are the main areas we will be covering in Maths during the Autumn Term. All skills will be taught through real-life contexts to help children understand how maths is used in everyday life.

We will focus on counting, recognising, and partitioning numbers up to 100, as well as estimating and counting in steps of 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. The children will also develop their understanding of fact families, including number bonds to 10 and 20, and begin to add tens to make number bonds to 100 (e.g. 80 + 20). They will also learn how to use number bonds to 10 to help make addition quicker and easier.

Writing: We will begin the term with the book *Troll Swap* by Leigh Hodgkinson, where the children will learn to write a story focusing on developing interesting characters. In the second half of the term, we will read *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson, and the children will write a non-chronological report all about owls.

Composition: Through *The Troll*, children will write clear sentences using full stops, capital letters, and conjunctions. They'll build vocabulary and create character descriptions and story endings. Reading and discussing stories at home will support this.

Handwriting and Presentation: Children will focus on improving handwriting by forming letters correctly and writing within the handwriting lines with consistent size and spacing. They will also work on presenting their work neatly and taking pride in its appearance.

Spoken Language: This term, children will work on: speaking clearly in full sentences, listening and taking turns in conversations, using new vocabulary to explain ideas and retelling stories and events in order.

Grammar: This term, we will focus on important grammar skills. Children will learn to use the conjunctions 'because,' 'and,' 'or,' and 'but' to make longer sentences. They will also practise using expanded noun phrases to make their writing more detailed, like in the example: *"The cold, murky lake."* We will work on using full stops and capital letters

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correctly and learn how to use commas in a list. Finally, the children will begin to add –ly to adjectives to turn them into adverbs (for example, *quick* becomes *quickly*).

Spelling: Spelling will be taught using the Pathways to Spell curriculum. This term, we will focus on learning to spell the Year 2 Common Exception Words and begin exploring some of the Year 2 spelling rules, particularly when adding suffixes to words. For example, we will look at how to add –s, –es, –ed, and –ing to words (e.g. *kiss* becomes *kisses*). These rules will be taught in a fun and engaging way to help children become more confident and accurate in their spelling.

Phonics: Children who are still accessing phonics will continue to be taught using the Supersonic Phonic Friends curriculum. They will revisit and recap phonemes taught in Year 1, as well as Year 1 spelling rules, to help strengthen their reading and spelling skills.

Science: Our science topics this term are ‘Animals Including Humans’ and ‘Everyday Materials’. We will learn about the basic needs of animals, why good nutrition is important, and how to live a healthy lifestyle. In our second topic, we will explore everyday materials, learning how their properties can change, why we use certain materials for different jobs, and how to compare their uses.

Computing: This term, our themes are ‘IT Around Us’ and ‘Effective Searching’. We will explore how technology is used in our homes and communities, and learn how to make smart and safe choices when using it. The children will also practise refining their searches using search tools and use digital technology on Purple Mash to share their work and communicate with others nearby.

History: Our theme is ‘The Great Fire of London’. We will learn why the fire started, how it spread, and what happened during the event. We’ll explore how people survived, how London was rebuilt, and compare houses then and now.

Geography: Our theme is ‘What do we know about the United Kingdom?’. We will learn about the four countries in the UK, explore its weather and landscapes, and find out what makes each country unique. We’ll also discover what a geographer might say about England and how Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales are different from each other.

Art & Design: Our theme is ‘Explore and Draw’. We will use graphite, handwriting pens, watercolours, and wax resist to create artwork. The focus will be on using the shape of the page and arranging different parts carefully to make compositions we enjoy.

Design Technology: Our theme is Mechanisms - Wheels and Axles and we will be designing and producing a vehicle to transport an Elf on the Shelf.

Music: This term, children will be exploring beat, rhythm, melody, echoes, and call-and-response. They will play tuned and untuned percussion instruments, listen to music inspired by birdsong, and compose their own pieces using different sounds. The children will also improvise and perform solos on their instruments.

PSHE: This term, we will be learning about resilience and how to work well with different people. We’ll also spend time in Forest School to help build a healthy mindset and explore the world around us. As part of our diversity teaching, our theme this term is ‘To understand what makes someone feel proud,’ and we will be exploring this through the book *The Odd Egg* by Emily Gravett.

PE/Sport: Our theme is ‘Ball Skills’ where we will focus on improving how children send and receive a ball. After that, we will switch to gymnastics, learning to balance, move in different ways, and create shapes with our bodies.

Home Learning: Home learning will be set each week on Monday via Google Classroom. Each week, children will be given:

- 1 Maths task
- 1 English task

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Some tasks will be paper-based, while others will be set through our online learning platform, IXL. Please make sure all home learning is finished and handed in by the following Monday.

Home Reading: As well as set home learning, we encourage daily reading at home, and it is a school requirement that children have at least three adult signatures each week in their reading records to show they have read at home. This will be checked in school weekly.

How you can help at home: Read with your child every day and ask them questions about the story to help their understanding. Encourage your child to write whenever they can, reminding them to use the correct punctuation and to read their sentences aloud to check they make sense. Also, practise counting forwards in 2s, 3s, 5s, and 10s to build their number skills.

Read to Succeed Reward System.



Bronze Star = 35 Reads

You've started your reading journey—keep it up!



Silver star = 70 Reads

You're halfway to greatness—amazing progress!



Gold Star = 95 Reads

You're a reading champion—golden level achieved!



Choose a book YOU love!

At the end of the year, your chosen book will be **gift-wrapped** and **personally presented** to you by **Mr McDermott** in a special celebration!

Work hard. Read lots. Earn your reward!

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