

Autumn Newsletter – Year 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to the new term! Everyone has settled into the new routines and the children have already shown that they are ready for the step up to Year 2 - we are really proud of the way the children have started the Autumn Term!



Creative Curriculum

Our main topics this term are 'The Jungle Book' and 'The Great Fire of London'. The children will learn many new skills and concepts through these exciting topics. In the first few weeks of term, the whole school is exploring 'The Jungle Book' and I'm sure you've all heard about the fabulous theatre performance of the story that we experienced in the first week. In our second topic, the children will explore how the Great Fire of London started and how we know so much about this event. Using **Design & Technology skills**,

they will design and make a fire engine using wheels and axles; in **Art & Design** they will develop shading skills through detailed observations of local landmarks and learn how to play 'London's Burning' using the ocarina in **Music**. In **Geography**, Year 2 will be identifying where they live using maps. They will also be learning about our capital city and identifying famous landmarks from both London and Newcastle. **Computing** will support the children's ability to research and find information about our topics using key words and websites. We are all so excited to get started!

English

The children will develop their skills in English through the Creative Curriculum topics. There are three key areas that are focused on:

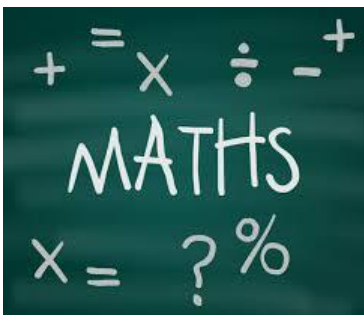
Reading: To use phonic knowledge to sound out and blend new vocabulary to understand new information. The children will develop their reading stamina in order to read longer texts and answer questions about what they have read to show their understanding. They will identify new vocabulary and discuss the meaning of these words within their contexts to provide a deeper understanding of what they are reading.



Writing: To develop letter formation and handwriting stamina so they can write longer pieces of work. Children will become word detectives, identify features of diaries, recounts and character descriptions using exciting vocabulary and include them in coherent sentences.

Grammar, punctuation & spelling: To revisit spelling patterns from Year 1 to boost confidence, learn new spelling patterns which are shared in the reading record books, identify and use a range of words such as nouns, verbs and adjectives as well as using capital letters and full stops accurately in sentences.

Spellings will be shared on a Friday to learn for the following Friday for a challenge. Please support your child with their reading little and often and write a weekly comment in their reading record to let us know how they are doing with their reading at home.



Maths

During this term, the children will explore numbers to 100 and develop their understanding of their value. They will use practical resources to make and record amounts to 100, order and sequence a range of numbers using facts such as odd and even numbers and multiples of 10 and 5. Year 2 will also use their knowledge of place value to solve problems about the Creative Curriculum topics. This will include estimating and measuring using metres and centimetres. Moving forward, the children will begin to add and subtract and multiply and divide, using a range of new strategies

to solve calculations to 100. What an exciting time!

Times Tables – Each week on a Friday, your child will take part in a times tables challenge where they will answer questions, initially about the 10x table. These are shared in the maths notebook inside the reading folder. Your child will also have the opportunity to develop their online skills through 'Times Tables Rock Stars.'

PE

PE will take place every Monday afternoon, where, in their first unit, the children will have gymnastics sessions taught by professional gymnastics coaches. Please can you send your child into school wearing their **full PE kit (plain white t-shirt, plain unbranded navy/black shorts or joggers and their school jumper as well as trainers for outside sessions)**. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is fully labelled. No jewellery should be worn. If earrings need to stay in, families must provide plasters to cover them. Thank you.



Science

This term, Year 2 will learn about materials, including the properties of different materials and what certain materials are best used for.

Religious Education



'New Beginnings' is the new topic following the 'Come and See' scheme. The children will discuss their understanding of new beginnings in their lives, read and talk about 'The Creation Story' and recount the main events in their own words. Year 2 will develop their awareness of prayer and how to pray in different ways, learn about how Jesus lived and how God would like us to live celebrating Gospel values every day.

RSE

RSE aims to help improve children's understanding of their health and relationships. Our first topic in RSE is 'Girls & Boys'.

School Lunch

As a Healthy School, part of our responsibility is to encourage families to provide healthy packed lunches for their children. As a starting point, please ensure that you do not supply fizzy drinks for your child but choose water or diluted cordial instead. For ideas on what to include as part of a healthy packed lunch, please refer to our school website. All children are entitled to a free school lunch and meals that are prepared and served are delicious! Please provide the school office with at least **7 days'** notice if you wish to change. Thank you for supporting us in this matter.

After School Club

We are extremely lucky to have our own After School Club on site, running every day from the end of school until 5pm. The Club is run by members of our school staff and it represents excellent value for money as well as providing a range of stimulating, exciting activities for the children in a familiar environment. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit the school website and speak to a member of the office staff.

Dates for your diary...	
Tuesday 20 th September	3:10 – 4:00pm Year 2 Class Open Evening
Thursday 22 nd September	11:00am Y1 – 6 Mass at St. Cuthbert's Church (families welcome)
Thursday 6 th October	11:00am KS1 Mass at St. Cuthbert's Church (families welcome)

Finally, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to speak with a member of the Year 2 staff; we are accessible via the class email address (year2@stcuthbertsk.org) or, if you'd rather speak to us in person, you are welcome to catch myself or Mrs. Gregson at the door during drop-off and pick-up times. For longer meetings, please make an appointment through the school office.

Mr Bright & Mrs Gregson