

Newcomen Primary School

Year 2 Curriculum Overview

Introduction

Welcome to Year 2! We place great importance on being able to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is primarily Literary based. As a school, we believe a text-rich environment ensures that all learning is relevant and stimulating across the whole curriculum. It really does allow the children to fully immerse themselves in what they are doing. We are also mindful of the amount of time your child has spent engaging in remote learning rather than face to face learning in the classroom. As a result, our curriculum is designed to offer them the support they need academically, partially and emotionally. Your children are our most precious asset. Remember that we are here to help so if you have any questions at all about anything, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

English

At Newcomen Primary School, we aim to promote a shared love and understanding of English whilst nurturing an appreciation of language and the use of high level vocabulary. During the Autumn Term, we will spend the first couple of weeks studying Traditional Tales such as 'The Enormous Turnip', 'Cinderella' and 'Hansel and Gretel'. Our narrative theme will continue with the children studying the beloved stories of Katie Morag by Mairi Hedderwick. Later in the term, the children will be looking at instructional texts and poems. As always, we will be continuing our work with links to speaking, listening, drama, reading and writing. Additionally, your child will begin to develop their comprehension skills in discrete, focused reading lessons. The focus will be on retrieving key information from a variety of texts and making simple inferences to enhance their wider understanding. During the academic year, your child will write in many genres for a range of audiences including first-person recounts, character descriptions and non-chronological reports.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling lessons will occur on a weekly basis to promote high standards of Literacy, articulacy and the correct use of standard English. Your child will be given spellings each week on a Friday afternoon and will be tested on them the following Friday. Head Teacher stickers are awarded to those achieving 100% and are highly valued by the children. Moreover, the most successful class will be visited by our beloved school mascot Leonardo for the entire day!

Reading

Reading is a vital skill in all areas of primary education and lies at the heart of our curriculum. In Year 2, we are passionate about reading! It's a crucial skill that will support your child in all areas of the curriculum where they encounter text. Reading aloud confidently and with expression will benefit your child immensely. At home, please ensure that you embrace and share the love of reading with your child. Discussing and questioning the text is a great way to widen your child's understanding. Children will be rewarded for hitting milestones such as 50, 100 and even 200 home reads.

Maths

At Newcomen Primary School, we believe that a high-quality mathematics education provides a foundation for understanding the world. In Year 2, we will be concentrating on place value of two-digit numbers, knowing and using number facts and the importance of using and understanding specific Maths vocabulary. Children will be taught formal written methods for all four number operations and will use practical activities to reinforce their understanding of shape, space and measure. There will also be a particular focus on knowing and reciting times tables facts and number bonds. These will be taught in a variety of methods. We encourage children to recall by rote. As we develop, we will promote the rapid, random recall of these facts. Useful websites for rapid recall include www.teachingtable.co.uk and www.trockstars.co.uk All children in Year 2 are expected to know and randomly recall their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. This is the National Curriculum expectation. We begin each day with mental maths activities that reinforce recent learning and further embed basic skills. Throughout the year, these skills will allow children to use and apply mathematics to solve increasingly complex arithmetic and word problems. Other key areas of learning include money, time, position and direction and fractions of shapes and numbers.

The Wider Curriculum

In **History** the children will be learning about events beyond living memory. We will be studying The Great Fire of London. In the spring term, the children will have the opportunity to study significant historic events, people and places in our local area. In **Geography**, the children will have the opportunity to understand the differences between human and physical geographical features, compare UK and non-European locations and conclude the year with a local study involving fieldwork and map skills.

Art and Design Technology will be linked to our geographical and art studies. The children will have the opportunity to design a cart to help Katie Morag transport her mail around the island. As part of our instructional writing the children will make a pizza following their own set of instructions. The children will have the opportunity to design a Rainforest Diorama and whilst studying Mackenzie Thorpe, will design and make their own Transporter Bridge.

In **Science**, we will begin the year studying 'Living Things and their Habitats'. Children will question what makes something alive. We will study habitats on Earth and even look at micro-habitats within school. Later in the year, children will focus on 'Materials, their Properties and Everyday Uses'. We end the year with a study of 'Plants and Animals Including Humans'. As well as learning about the key concepts of these areas, the children will also have the opportunity to work scientifically by conducting fascinating experiments to enrich their understanding.

In **Religious Education (RE)** the children will be examining the world religions of Christianity and Judaism. We will focus on key questions such as 'How and why do Christians care for others?' 'How do they celebrate key festivals in the Christian calendar,?', as well as studying of the significance of The Church for Christians. As part of our Jewish studies, we will examine the harvest festival of Sukkot and why Moses is important to the Jewish faith.

Computing is an essential part of the curriculum as it prepares the children for the digital age in which they live. Over the course of the year, the children will be learning the skills of Coding, Algorithms and debugging. They will also be working on a range of simple programs to collect, store and present data.

Physical Education (PE) will begin by focusing on health with a particular focus on team building. The children will go on to study modules of gymnastics, dance, ball skills and invasion games.

In **Music**, the children will listen to, review and evaluate various genres of music learning how to identify pulse, rhythm, dynamics and tempo. Moreover, they will learn to sing and to use their voices to create and compose music on their own and with others. Children will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (a glockenspiel) and perform songs within a class setting.

Your children's well-being is of paramount importance. As such, our weekly **Relationship Education (RE)** sessions will be designed to support the children with this. We are very much looking forward to using the curriculum to offer our children guidance, support and reassurance. The key themes we will be exploring are: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, Relationships and Changing Me.

Important Information

Attendance - 'Attend and Achieve' is a motto we are very proud of at school. If your child is not here, then they cannot learn. Please work with us to ensure that your child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

PE - Please ensure that your child has suitably labelled clothing which remains in school throughout the week. Class 6 has PE on a Thursday and Class 5 on Friday. The only jewellery acceptable is a watch and stud earrings (which are removed for PE) or taped up. Asthmatic children need a named inhaler in school at all times.

Spellings – Y2 have spelling tests on a Friday. Please ask your child for their spelling log and ensure that you review the spelling rule with your child when they are learning their spellings at home. Thank you so much for your support with this.