

Newcomen Primary School

Year 2 Curriculum Overview 2026-2027

Introduction

At Newcomen Primary School, we are passionate about enthusing our children with a love of learning which is both meaningful and relevant. Our curriculum is designed to allow our children to develop all important human qualities and dispositions. While knowledge is integral to the design of our ambitious curriculum, the key driver is the ethos and values of our school. We have a holistic approach where pupils can access a knowledge rich, vocabulary focused curriculum which builds skills and reinforces learning. We offer children an exemplary education in a safe, calm and purposeful environment. Our aim is to nurture well-rounded, respectful and resilient children who will develop skills for life-long learning. We aspire for all our children to be respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

English

More than any other subject - English - and especially reading - gives pupils access to the rest of the curriculum and is fundamental to their educational success. At Newcomen Primary School, we 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 looking at instructional texts. This will be followed by personal recounts linked to our upcoming trips to Redcar beach and the Danby Moors Centre. Later in the term, our narrative theme will find the children reading both fairytales (Cinderella) and the charming, more contemporary, texts of Katie Morag and her adventures on the Isle of Struay. Throughout the year, children will encounter a range of genres and be required to write in many different styles including non-chronological reports, character descriptions and a diary entry based on adventures found in the children's classic, Robinson Crusoe. Additionally, your child will begin to develop their comprehension skills in discrete reading lessons. The focus will be on retrieving key information from a variety of texts and making simple inferences to enhance their wider understanding. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling lessons will occur on a weekly basis to promote high standards of Literacy, articulation and the correct use of standard English. Your child will be given spellings each week on a Friday morning 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 each week will be visited by our beloved school mascot, Leonardo.

Reading

Reading is at the heart of all that we do at Newcomen Primary School as we know it is an essential skill for life-long learning. In Year 2, we continue focusing on reading practice, developing fluency and automaticity. The children will progress from phonic phase reading books to colour banded reading books matched to their individual reading ability. Children will benefit from re-reading these texts as familiarity boosts confidence, fluency and deepens their understanding of the text. Each week, your child will be given the opportunity to choose a Reading for Pleasure book from an incredible selection of inspiring and imaginative children's books. This book is for you to share with your child and further enhance their love of reading. Children who experience regular reading at home, benefit from improved confidence and reading skills. Your support with reading at home is valued and appreciated.

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 the 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 the 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 using times tables facts and number bonds. We encourage children to learn and recall by rote. As your child develops, we will promote the rapid, random recall of these facts. All children in Year 2 are expected to know and randomly recall their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. This is a National Curriculum expectation. We begin each day with morning 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 problems. Other key areas of learning include money, time, position and direction and fractions.

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 including James Cook and his first voyage.

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 study involving fieldwork and map skills.

In **Art**, children will begin the year exploring drawing materials, creating textures and experimenting with shading. They will also have the opportunity to create an observational drawing. In the spring term, children will take inspiration from the collage work of artist Romare Bearden and use their colour mixing skills to create their own collage of nearby Roseberry Topping.

Design and Technology (DT) will focus on building structures, mechanisms and components. Children will even try their hand at making a 'moving monster' during summer term!

In **Science**, we will begin the year studying 'Living Things and their Habitats'. Children will recognise the characteristics of living things and consider what plants and animals live in our local environment. Later in the year, children will focus on 'Materials, their Properties and Everyday Uses'. We end the year with a study of 'Plants' where the children will examine seeds and bulbs as well as exploring germination and identifying the processes performed by roots, shoots and leaves.

In **Religious Education (RE)**, the children will begin the year studying 'Who is a Muslim and how do they live?' We will then focus on key questions such as 'Why are religious festivals important to Christians?' linked to Christmas and Easter celebrations. Later in the year the children, will consider 'What is the 'good news' Christians believe Jesus brings?' and 'What makes some places sacred to believers?'

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 be taught about using technology safely and responsibly in an increasingly technologically-focused world. Children will also have the opportunity to use technology to create music and access a range of programs to communicate, collect, store and present data.

Physical Education (PE)

Children will begin the term working on team-building games where cooperation is the best way to achieve success. Later in the term, a focus on gymnastics will ensure your child is forward rolling and balancing with panache! As we go through the year, the children explore 'locomotion' (the art of dodging and jumping), contemporary dance and finally, games focused on attack and defence.

In **Music**, the children will listen to, review and evaluate various genres of music; learning how to identify the interrelated dimensions of music such as pulse, pitch and dynamics. Moreover, children will learn to sing expressively and to use their voices to create and compose music on their own and with others. Children will have the opportunity to learn a play an instrument (glockenspiel); performing and improvising within a class setting.

Your child'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: Being Me in My World, Celebrating Difference, Dreams and Goals, Healthy Me, and Relationships.

Important Information

Attendance - 'Attend and Achieve' is a motto we are very proud of here 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 – Class 6 (Mr Beckett) will have PE on Wednesday afternoons. Class 5 (Mrs Cook) will have PE on Thursday afternoons. Earrings must be removed or taped up using plasters by parents and carers. Unfortunately, staff cannot tape up or remove earrings. Please ensure that your child's PE kit is in school when required and is labelled accordingly with a name.

Spellings – Y2 have their spelling test on a Friday. Please ask your child for their spelling log and ensure that you review any spelling rules with your child when they are learning their spellings at home. Thank you so much for your support with this; it makes a big difference to the children's confidence on Friday mornings!

Reading for Pleasure – Reading for Pleasure books will be handed out every Wednesday and collected in the following Tuesday. If your child has not finished the book, they are more than welcome to take it home again!