

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Year 2 parents/carers,

### Year 2 Curriculum Letter - Autumn (2nd half)

#### Message from the teachers

Well done to all of Year 2 for a fantastic start to the academic year. We hope you all have a fun and relaxing half term and return to school ready for an exciting lead up to Christmas. This letter will briefly outline some of the lessons that Year 2 will have fun exploring through the second half of the Autumn Term.

#### Our Core Values

Happiness: we spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: we care and are kind to all.

Respect: we treat others as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: we work well with everyone.

#### Year 2 Staffing

Elder class teacher: Miss Faghiri

Birch class teacher: Miss Troup

Year 2 learning support assistants: Mrs Childs and Mrs Warne

#### Communication

Please feel free to arrange a meeting should you wish to speak to one of the teachers in person. Alternatively, you can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

[Elderclass@harefieldinfant.com](mailto:Elderclass@harefieldinfant.com)

[Birchclass@harefieldinfant.com](mailto:Birchclass@harefieldinfant.com)

#### Homework

Homework, along with answers, will be sent out every **Friday** to be returned the following **Friday**. Spelling tests will take place every **Friday**.

#### Reading at home

Phonics reading books will be sent out every **Monday**. These are to be returned every **Friday**.

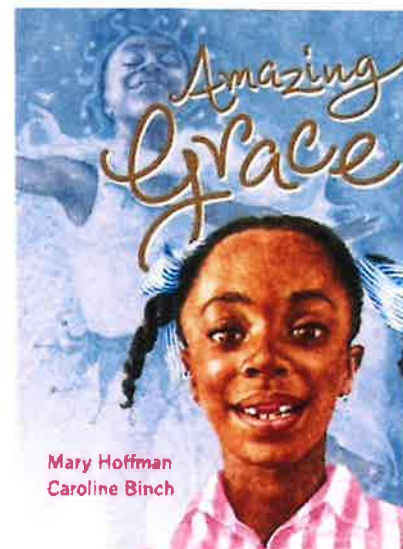
We will also visit the school library each **Wednesday** on a weekly basis, from where the children can select a book to borrow and read at home. Please return these books to school once your child has finished reading it. New home reading books and library books will not be issued until the previous ones have been returned.

### Autumn Term Learning

This half term we will be learning the following in each subject area.


#### English

Year 2 will be reading 'Amazing Grace' by Mary Hoffman. We will use this to create 'Wishing Tales' where we will create a character who has their own dreams to achieve and must work hard in order to get there. Later in the half term, we will use the same text to discuss instructions and use this to support us writing our own instructions on how to make a wish.



#### Mathematics

Kim is working out  $28 + 19$



How does Kim know this?  
What is  $28 + 19$ ?

In mathematics this half term, Year 2 will continue to look at addition and subtraction to and within 100. We will solve addition and subtraction problems across tens and begin to use this knowledge to compare number sentences.

Later in the term, we will move onto shape. The children will learn to recognise 2D and 3D shapes, identify lines of symmetry and count vertices, faces and edges on a shape.

#### Physical Education

Indoor P.E. will be taking place in Year 2 for both classes on **Tuesdays**. The indoor P.E. unit this term is called 'Circuit Training'. In this, we will learn different types of jumps, develop our ability to pivot and begin to combine skills with a variety of activities.

Birch class will be having outdoor P.E. on **Monday**. The outdoor P.E. unit this term is called 'Invasion Games', where we will learn to use throwing, catching and kicking skills in a game, as well as begin to apply a range of attacking and defending skills.

Please ensure you send your child to school wearing the correct P.E. kits on these days.

#### Forest School

Forest School will be taking place each **Monday** afternoon for **Elder** Class this half term. The children will be given opportunities to learn in nature, building a range of skills and making observations of the changing seasons.



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**Executive Head Teacher:** Mr A.Sunner

**Head of School:** Mr J.Downs

### **Music**

We are very fortunate to have a specialist music teacher in school every Wednesday to teach Year 2 music lessons, focusing on learning to play the Djembe drums.

### **Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education**

Through the P.S.H.E unit 'Celebrating Difference' the children will discuss and accept everyone is different, continue to learn how they can stand up for themselves and others and reflect on how they can celebrate difference and continue friendships.

### **Computing**

In computing this term, year 4 will continue with the 'Technology Around Us' unit, which teaches children a basic understanding of technology.

In **Science**, year 2 will be learning about materials, and then will use this knowledge to investigate how waterproof different materials are – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

In **History**, year 2 will be learning about 'Kings and Queens', particularly what the role of a Monarch is and Kings and Queens of England – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.








In **Religious Education**, year 2's topic is 'Light and Dark' – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Please feel free to contact us via the class email accounts should you have any questions over the term ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Faghiri and Miss Troup  
Year 2 teachers

## Key Vocabulary

- 
**material** - what an object is made from
- 
**natural material** - a material that comes from animals, plants or the Earth
- 
**man-made material** - a material made by humans
- 
**recycle** - to change rubbish into a material that can be used again
- 
**independent variable** (what will change) - the material
- 
**dependent variable** (what will be measured) - the amount of water that has passed through the material
- 
**controlled variable** (what is kept the same) - the amount of water used, the time taken before checking the results and the size of the material squares

- 
**smooth** - an even surface

- 
**rough** - an uneven surface

- 
**flexible** - can change shape easily

- 
**rigid** - cannot change shape easily

- 
**brittle** - easily broken

- 
**flexible** - can change shape easily

- 
**shiny** - a surface that can reflect light easily

- 
**dull** - not clear, bright or shiny

- 
**hard** - not easily broken or bent

- 
**rock** - a natural material found on or underneath the Earth's surface

- 
**stone** - a smaller rock

- 
**pebble** - a small, smooth rock that has been shaped by water

- 
**brick** - a man-made building material

- 
**fabric** - a material made from weaving or knitting threads together

- 
**tough** - not easily broken

- 
**lightweight** - fabric that is thin and light

- 
**soft** - a material that can easily change shape or is gentle to touch

- 
**transparent** - materials you can see through

- translucent** - materials that allow some light to pass through so you cannot see clearly through them

- 
**opaque** - materials you cannot see through

- 
**squash** - to crush or squeeze something

- 
**bend** - to force something to curve

- 
**twist** - to bend or curl something out of shape

- 
**stretch** - to make something longer without ripping, breaking or tearing it

## Knowledge

- Objects can be made from different materials.
- Some materials are natural such as sand, wood and wool.
- Some are man-made such as plastic and brick.
- Some materials are recyclable and can be used again.
- Paper and cardboard are made from wood.
- Wood, paper and cardboard come from trees.
- There are different strengths of wood, paper and cardboard.
- Wood, paper and cardboard can all be recycled and used again.
- Rocks are a natural material.
- Bricks are a man-made material.
- Rocks and bricks can be used to build houses, buildings and roads.
- Glass is hard and brittle.
- Plastic can be flexible or hard.
- Some plastic can be recycled.
- All glass is recyclable.
- Metal comes in many forms and colours.
- Some metals are flexible and can easily change shape.
- Some metals cannot change shape easily.
- Metal can be used to make many different objects.
- Fabrics can be natural.
- Fabrics can be man-made.
- Fabrics have different uses.
- Materials have particular uses.
- Some objects can be made from different materials.
- Some materials are suitable for an object.
- Some materials are unsuitable for an object.
- Some materials can change shape and some cannot.
- Some materials can be bent.
- Some materials can twist.
- Some materials can be squashed.
- Some materials can be stretched.

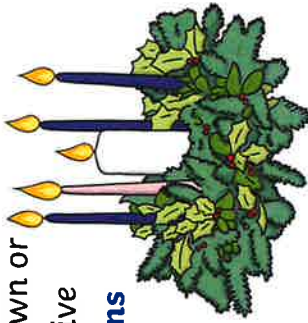
**Key Vocabulary**

<b>Advent</b>	The four weeks leading up to <b>Christmas</b> (starting on the nearest Sunday to 30 <sup>th</sup> November).
<b>Christians</b>	Followers of the religion of Christianity.
<b>Christmas</b>	The <b>Christian</b> festival that <b>celebrates</b> the birth of <b>Jesus</b> . <b>Christmas</b> Day is <b>celebrated</b> on 25 <sup>th</sup> December.
<b>Jesus</b>	The founder of Christianity, believed by <b>Christians</b> to be the son of God.
<b>Bethlehem</b>	The place of <b>Jesus</b> ' birth.
<b>celebrate</b>	To take part in enjoyable activities for a particular occasion.
<b>Diwali</b>	The <b>Hindu</b> festival of light.
<b>Hindu</b>	Followers of the religion of Hinduism.

**Advent**

**Advent** is the start of the **Christian** year. It is when **Christians** start to prepare for **Christmas**.

Churches display an **advent** crown or wreath. These usually contain five candles, which remind **Christians** about the light of God coming into the world through the birth of **Jesus** Christ.



Light is important to **Christians**, as they believe **Jesus** to be the 'light of the world', bringing light and hope to people, even in times of darkness.



**Christmas**

**Christians** use lights to help them **celebrate Christmas**. There are many types of lights, e.g candles, tree lights and hanging light decorations. A star is often placed on top of the **Christmas** tree, as a reminder of the star that led the Three Wise Men to **Bethlehem**.



Many churches and schools hold

Christingle services. A Christingle is an orange decorated with a red ribbon, sweets and a candle. The lit candle represents **Jesus** as the 'light of the world.'

**Christingle**

**Diwali**

**Diwali** is celebrated by **Hindus** and **Sikhs** in October or November. It is the start of the **Hindu** new year and lasts for five days. The word '**Diwali**' comes from a word that means 'lighted row of lamps'.



Key Vocabulary	
<b>exile</b>	To be made to stay away from home.
<b>victory</b>	A win against the enemy.
<b>evil</b>	Very bad.
<b>diva</b>	A small oil lamp (usually made from clay).
<b>Lakshmi</b>	The <b>Hindu</b> goddess of wealth.
<b>Hanukkah</b>	The <b>Jewish</b> festival of light (also known as Chanukah).
<b>Jewish</b>	Relating to the religion of Judaism (or the followers of that religion).
<b>miracle</b>	An amazing event that happened, but cannot be explained.
<b>menorah</b>	A special candlestick used in <b>Jewish</b> worship.

## Diwali

**Diwali celebrates** the victory of good over evil and light over darkness. At **Diwali**, some **Hindus** remember the story of Rama and Sita returning from **exile**, where their way home was lit by lamps. **Hindus** light **diva** lamps at **Diwali** to welcome **Lakshmi** into their homes.



Fireworks are set off during **Diwali celebrations**.



## Hanukkah

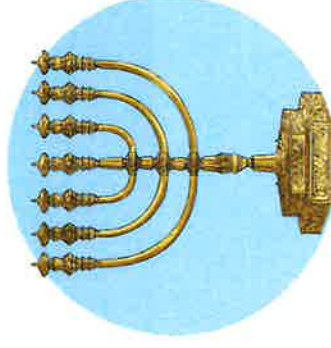
**Hanukkah celebrates** one of the greatest **miracles** in **Jewish** history. After their temples were destroyed by the King's army, the Jews found a tiny amount of oil at the temple in Jerusalem to light a **menorah**. The **menorah** had seven branches. It kept burning for eight days and nights - a **miracle!**

## The Hanukkah Menorah

A **Hanukkah menorah** has nine branches, not seven. The branch in the middle, holds the candle that is used to light the others. On each night of **Hanukkah**, a branch of the **menorah** is lit as a reminder that God is with you, even during difficult times.

## Celebrating Hanukkah

**Jewish** people eat oil-based foods during **Hanukkah**. The festival begins in December or late November. Presents and coins are given and a game called Dreidel is played.



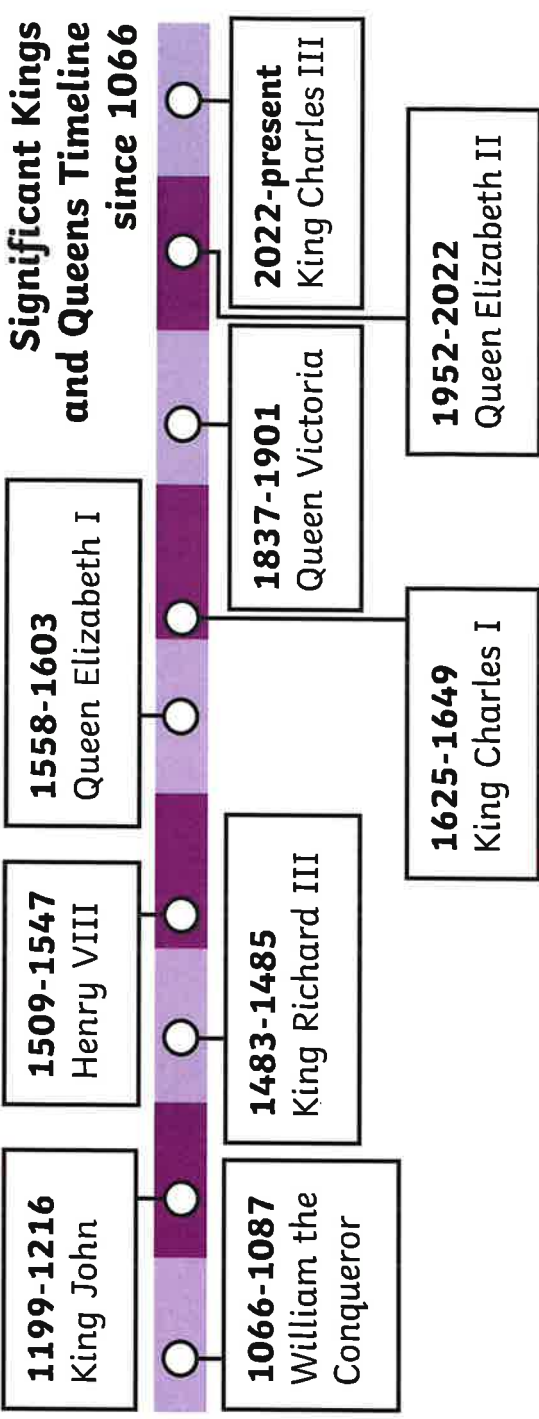
Key Facts	
<b>Who is our current monarch?</b>	King Charles III is our current monarch. King Charles III became king after Queen Elizabeth II (his mother) died in 2022.
<b>Who was Queen Victoria?</b>	Queen Victoria was queen for almost 64 years. This time was called the Victorian period. Cars and trains were invented during this time.
<b>What is Henry VIII known for?</b>	Henry was desperate for a son, so when his wife Katherine of Aragon gave birth to a baby girl, he divorced her. In doing so, he split England from the Catholic Church and created the Church of England. Henry had a total of six wives. He divorced two and beheaded two!
<b>Who is the longest reigning monarch?</b>	Queen Elizabeth II was the longest reigning monarch. She <b>reigned</b> for 70 years.
<b>What is Richard III remembered for?</b>	Richard III is often remembered for being a cruel and unkind king. Some people think he killed his nephews to become king. He is also famous because nobody knew where he was buried until his skeleton was discovered in a car park in 2012.
<b>Who was Elizabeth I?</b>	Elizabeth I was the daughter of Henry VIII. She never married, although she said she was married to her country.

Key Vocabulary	
<b>monarch</b>	A monarch is a king or queen, an emperor or a sultan.
<b>Parliament</b>	This is where politicians meet to decide laws.
<b>succession</b>	This is the order in which a monarch's family will take over the throne.
<b>crown</b>	Crowns are usually made of metal and are worn on the heads of kings and queens.
<b>power</b>	Something kings and queens have to make people do what they say.



**Key Vocabulary**

<b>reign</b>	The time that someone is king or queen for.
<b>royal</b>	A way of describing the monarch and their family.
<b>rule</b>	This is how a monarch tells people what to do.



**Key People**

- William the Conqueror
- Charles I
- Elizabeth I
- Henry VIII
- Victoria
- Richard III
- Elizabeth II
- John
- King Charles III