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

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

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Year 2 parents/carers,

## Year 2 Curriculum Letter – Summer (1<sup>st</sup> half)

### Message from the teachers

Welcome back! We hope that you have had an egg-cellent Easter break. This curriculum letter will outline the lesson topics for the next half 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 Warne and Mrs Childs

### 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.

## Spring Term Learning

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

### English

Year 2 will be reading 'The Lorax' by Dr. Seuss. They will begin with writing a character flaw tale where every time their character does something wrong the lorax pops up. Following that the children will write a persuasion text around 'The Lorax'.



### Mathematics

Tiny is thinking about parts and wholes.



If Class 2 is the whole, White Rose Primary School is a part of the whole.

Explain Tiny's mistake.

Make up some statements about wholes and parts in your school.



In Maths this term, Year 2 will look at Fractions. They begin by learning about parts and wholes, children explore equal and unequal parts. We will then move on to learning time. Children need to be able to tell the time accurately at o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to times so practising time telling regularly will be invaluable to their learning.

You can support your child at home by practising maths fluency; quick recall of number bonds to 10, 20 and 100, 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

### Physical Education

Indoor P.E. will be taking place in Year 2 for both classes on **Tuesday**. The indoor P.E. unit this term is called 'Gymnastics: Under the Sea'.

**Elder** class will be having outdoor P.E. on **Monday**. The outdoor P.E. unit this term is called 'Multi-skills: Target Games'.

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 **Birch** 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.

### Music

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

### Computing

The computing unit this term is called 'Programming with Turtle Logo and Scratch'. This will see the pupils creating and debugging algorithms. The children use the basic commands in Logo to move and draw using the turtle on screen, and then further develop algorithms using the "repeat" command. These skills are then further developed by teaching children to create algorithms in Scratch using a selection of blocks.



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

In PSHE lessons this half term, children will be thinking about, "Relationships." This learning includes thinking about how to solve challenges and problems within friendships.

### **Science**

Year 2 will be focusing on 'Growing Up' this half term - attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

### **History**

In History, Year 2's topic is 'The Gunpowder Plot' - attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

### **Religious Education**

Year 2 topic is 'Ceremonies' – 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

- offspring** – the young of a living thing


- growth** – when a living thing gets bigger


- egg** – contains the offspring of birds, amphibians, reptiles and most insects


- adult** – the stage when a living thing is fully grown


- parent** – an adult that has offspring


- mammal** – an animal with fur or hair on its body, which gives birth to live young and feeds its young on milk


- life cycle** – the stages a living thing goes through


- adolescent** – the stage before becoming an adult mammal


- amphibian** – an animal that can live on land and in water


- frogspawn** – frog eggs


- tadpole** – the stage after hatching from an egg, and has a long tail


- froglet** – the stage after tadpole, and has a tail and legs


- baby** – the stage after birth


- child** – the stage after a baby and before a teenager


- teenager** – the stage before becoming an adult human


- egg** – contains the offspring of birds, amphibians, fish, reptiles and most insects


- caterpillar** – the stage after hatching from an egg


- pupa** – the stage when the caterpillar forms a hard case and changes into an adult


- butterfly** – the stage when the butterfly is a fully grown adult



## Knowledge

- Most mammals give birth to live young. These are their offspring.
- Reptiles, amphibians and birds and most insects lay eggs. These are their offspring.
- The offspring of many animals have a different name to the adult.
- Humans are mammals.
- Humans give birth to live young.
- Humans follow these stages of the life cycle – baby, child, teenager and adult.
- The body changes and grows throughout the life cycle.
- A mammal is an animal with fur or hair on its body, which gives birth to live young and feeds it young milk.
- Different mammals have different life cycles.
- Most mammals grow up quicker than humans and become adults sooner.
- Frogs are amphibians. This means that they can live on land and in water.
- Frogs lay eggs.
- A frog's life cycle is eggs (frogspawn), tadpole, young frog (froglet) and adult frog.
- Butterflies lay eggs (usually on a leaf), which hatch into caterpillars.
- Once a caterpillar has grown, it will change into a pupa and form a hard case to protect itself.
- The pupa will change into a butterfly.
- Once the butterfly is fully formed, it will hatch from its casing.
- Once the butterfly has hatched, it's ready to fly and start the life cycle again.
- Most animal's life cycles share similarities.
- Most mammals grow up much quicker than humans and become adults much sooner.
- Some animals give birth to live young and some lay eggs.

Key Vocabulary

<b>London</b>	The capital city of England and the UK where the <b>Gunpowder Plot</b> took place.
<b>plot</b>	A secret plan to do something that could hurt others or is not allowed.
<b>gunpowder</b>	A powder used to create explosions.
<b>Catholic</b>	A Christian who is a member of the <b>Catholic Church</b> .
<b>Protestant</b>	A Christian who is a member of the Church of England.
<b>Guy Fawkes</b>	A <b>gunpowder</b> expert who was blamed for the <b>plot</b> .
<b>King James I</b>	The king of England when the <b>Gunpowder Plot</b> took place.



Key People



Guy Fawkes



Robert Catesby



Thomas Percy



King James I

The Plotters Planning the Gunpowder Plot



**Bonfire Night**

Did you know that the failure of the **Gunpowder Plot** is remembered every year on 5<sup>th</sup> November?

People light bonfires and set off fireworks.



**Key Facts**

<p>What was the <b>Gunpowder Plot</b>?</p>	<p>The <b>Gunpowder Plot</b> was a <b>plot</b> to kill <b>King James I</b> and his government by blowing up the Houses of Parliament.</p>
<p>Why was there a <b>plot</b>?</p>	<p>The plotters were all <b>Catholic</b>. They thought that <b>King James I</b> was being unfair to <b>Catholics</b> because he was a <b>Protestant</b>. They did not want him to be the king any more.</p>
<p>Did the <b>plot</b> succeed?</p>	<p>The <b>plot</b> failed. <b>Guy Fawkes</b> was found with <b>gunpowder</b> in the cellar at the Houses of Parliament.</p>

**24<sup>th</sup> March 1603**

King James I becomes King of England.

**May 1604**

The group begin to plot against King James I.

**13<sup>th</sup> April 1570**

Guy Fawkes is born.

**March 1605**

The plotters rent a cellar under the Houses of Parliament.

**5<sup>th</sup> November 1605**

Guy Fawkes is found in the cellar with 36 barrels of gunpowder by the king's guards.

**26<sup>th</sup> October 1605**

Lord Monteagle, who is a Catholic, receives an unsigned letter that warns him not to go to the opening of Parliament on the **5<sup>th</sup> November**.

**31<sup>st</sup> January 1606**

Guy Fawkes is executed.

**Timeline of Events**

**Key Vocabulary**

An important event. Ceremonies are held on special occasions and usually celebrate or remember something important. Lots of religions have special ceremonies for different events. Some ceremonies are similar in different religions (such as weddings), but some ceremonies are unique or special to one particular religion.

**ceremony**

This means 'Son of the Commandment'. A Jewish boy becomes a Bar Mitzvah when he is thirteen years old.

**Bar Mitzvah**

This means 'Daughter of the Commandment'. A Jewish girl becomes a Bat Mitzvah when she is twelve years old.

**Bat Mitzvah**

The Jewish holy book.

**Torah**

This is part of growing up.

**rite of passage**

**Aqiqah**

There are lots of different ways to welcome a new baby. A Muslim **ceremony** for this is called Aqiqah and is where the baby is introduced to family and friends and a meal is shared to thank Allah (God) for giving them a child. Prayers are said for the baby. The baby has their hair cut or shaved off. The removed hair is weighed and then its weight in silver or gold is given to charity.



**Bar and Bat Mitzvahs**

When Jewish boys and girls reach a certain age, they become responsible for their actions and must follow Jewish rules.

Many families celebrate this with a special **ceremony**. This is a **Bar Mitzvah** for boys and a **Bat Mitzvah** for girls. Becoming a **Bar Mitzvah** or **Bat Mitzvah** is a '**rite of passage**'. Young Jewish people spend a lot of time preparing for these **ceremonies**. They read the **Torah** and learn about their faith. The **ceremonies** have some differences for boys and girls but both boys and girls usually speak about the important things they have learned about. After the **ceremonies**, many families have a party or celebration.





Key Vocabulary

<b>dastar</b>	The name of a turban worn by men in the Sikh religion. It covers the head. It covers a man's hair and protects it from getting tangled or dirty.
<b>Dastar Bandi</b>	A Dastar Bandi is a turban-tying <b>ceremony</b> where a Sikh boy starts wearing a <b>dastar</b> .
<b>wedding</b>	A <b>ceremony</b> , and the celebrations before and after this, when two people get married to one another.
<b>sari</b>	A traditional type of clothing. It is a long piece of fabric that is draped around the body.
<b>saafa</b>	A wedding turban.

Dastar Bandi

Sikhs believe that hair is a gift from God. It shouldn't be cut and it should be kept very clean. It should be covered in public and in religious buildings. Men wear a **dastar** to protect their hair and to show others that they are Sikhs. During the **Dastar Bandi**, a boy will sit in front of the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh holy book) and an elder will tie the turban on his head. Afterwards, he will be prayed for and he may receive gifts. Often people eat and celebrate together afterwards.



Hindu weddings

A Hindu Wedding

are often very big celebrations. Lots of people attend and the celebrations can even last more than one day! The bride wears beautiful silk clothing that is often embroidered with detailed designs and jewels; she might wear a **sari**. The groom often wears a jewelled **saafa**. At the **wedding** venue, a mark is put on the foreheads of the groom and his family with red kum-kum powder. This marks the start of the two families being joined together. One important part of the **ceremony** is when the bride and groom walk around the sacred fire. They take seven steps and say prayers. This is called Saptapadi.