

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Dear Year 2 parents/carers,

### Year 2 Curriculum Letter - Autumn (1<sup>st</sup> half)

#### Message from the teachers

Welcome to Year 2. This letter will briefly outline some of the topics that year 2 will have fun exploring through the first half of the autumn term.

There is a tea/coffee morning on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September for Year 2 parents in the school hall where you will get to meet us. We hope to see you there.

#### 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

Each child will receive a printed copy of the homework every Friday. Please return the homework to your class teacher on the following Friday. Spelling checks take place each Friday.

We use the 'Read Write Inc' approach to teaching early reading and phonics. Every Friday your child will be given a phonics book to practice reading at home. Please return the book to school on the following Friday.

#### Library

Each Monday, both classes will visit the school library and borrow a book to read at home. Please ensure your child returns this book to school by the following Monday.

#### Autumn Term Learning

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

##### English



Year 2 will be reading 'The owl who was afraid of the dark' by Jill Tomlinson and use this to create their own 'Tales of Fear' where they will create a character who has to overcome an inconvenient fear of their own. Later this half term, they will use the same text to discuss information texts linked to nocturnal animals such as owls and create their own information text for their own chosen night-time creature.

##### Mathematics

In maths this half term, Year 2 will be learning about place value and the value of numbers. They will learn to count forwards and backwards in 10s up to 100, compare numbers to see which is greater or lesser than the other and continue learning times tables by counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and introducing 3s.

Ma and Kim are counting backwards from 100



What numbers will they both say?  
What do you notice?

##### Science

Here is a whale and a horse.



The Year 2 science unit this term is called 'Animal needs for survival /Humans'. Attached is a knowledge organiser with further information on what the children will be learning about.

- What is the same about these mammals?  
What is different?
- What **four** things do both these mammals need to survive?

### Geography

The Year 2 geography unit this term is called 'What a Wonderful World'. Attached is a knowledge organiser with further information on what the children will be learning about.

### Computing

The year 2 computing unit this term is called 'Using The Internet'. This unit introduces children to using the Internet safely and with a purpose.

### Art

'Landscapes and cityscapes' is the name of the Art unit this term, where the Year 2 children will learn about the bright colours and bold brushstrokes used by the Impressionists, and other artists, when painting landscapes and cityscapes.



### Physical Education

Indoor P.E. will be taking place in Year 2 for both classes on **Thursdays**. The indoor P.E. unit this term is called 'Landscapes and Cityscapes'. Children will learn to roll in different ways. The unit is linked to the Landscapes and Cityscapes topic and encourages children to think how they might make shapes with their bodies that express different landscapes and buildings.

**Elder** class children will also have outdoor PE lesson on **Fridays**. Please ensure you send your child to school wearing their P.E. kits on these days. The unit this term is called Multi-Skills: Throwing and Catching. Children will be learning how to roll and stop a ball, as well as bouncing and catching objects.

### Forest School

Forest School will be taking place each **Friday** 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. Please ensure your child brings their Forests school clothing in to school in a bag on Fridays.

### Religious Education

Our unit this half term is called 'Beginnings and endings'. Attached is a knowledge organiser with further information on what the children will be learning about own lives.

### Music

Our specialist music teacher will be in school every week to teach music lessons, focusing on learning to play the Djembe drums.

### Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education


The P.S.H.E unit 'Being Me in My World' the children will discuss their hopes and fears for the future, continue to learn about the rights and responsibilities that they can expect and reflect on how the choices they make has an impact on the people around them.


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


- mammal** – an animal with fur or hair on its body



- fur** – the fine, soft hair found on different animals



- carnivore** – an animal that eats other animals



- herbivore** – an animal that eats plants



- omnivore** – an animal that eats plants and other animals



- bird** – an animal with feathers, wings and a beak



- feathers** – the soft covering on the outside of birds


- beak** – a bird's mouth and nose



- insect** – an animal with six legs



- wing** – a part of a bird's body which some use to fly



- fish** – an animal with fins, gills and scales that lives in water



- scales** – small, hard layers that grow from the skin



- gills** – the part of the body that fish use to breathe



- fin** – a thin part that sticks out from the fish to help it swim and stay balanced



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



- webbed feet** – feet with toes that are joined together to help with swimming



- frog** – an amphibian with moist, smooth skin



- toad** – an amphibian with dry, bumpy skin



- newt** – an amphibian with a long tail


- mammal** – an animal with fur or hair on its body


- adult** – a fully grown human


- baby** – a newborn human


- shelter** – a place that gives protection from weather and danger



### Knowledge

- Mammals have fur or hair on their body.
- All mammals need air, water, food and shelter to survive.
- Mammals are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.
- Birds have feathers, wings and a beak.
- Some birds can fly.
- Some birds cannot fly.
- Birds need air, water, food and shelter to survive.
- Fish are animals that live in water.
- Fish need air, water, food and shelter to survive.
- Fish have gills that they use to breathe.
- Amphibians live on land and in water.
- Amphibians do not have scales on their bodies.
- Some amphibians have webbed feet.
- Amphibians need air, water, food and shelter to survive.
- Reptiles have dry scales on their bodies.
- Reptiles need air, water, food and shelter to survive.
- Reptiles need direct heat to survive.
- Humans are mammals.
- Humans need air, water, food and shelter to survive.
- All animals need air, water, food and shelter to survive.



Key Vocabulary	
<b>continent</b>	A very large area of land that includes all the islands with it.
<b>ocean</b>	A large area of sea.
<b>population</b>	The number of people that live in a particular place.
<b>landmark</b>	A well-known building or place.
<b>Australasia</b>	The continent of Australasia is often referred to as just Australia. It has about 28 countries and island groups.
<b>desert</b>	A large area of land that has very little rainfall and where not much grows.
<b>rainforest</b>	A large area of land with lots of tall trees and plenty of rainfall.

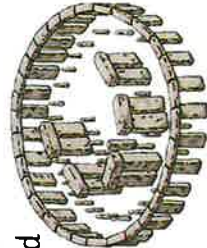
**Continents**  
There are seven **continents**: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, **Australasia**, Europe, North America and South America. Some **continents** have many countries, others do not.

**World Oceans**  
There are five **oceans** in the world: the Arctic Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean.

**Europe**  
Europe is the second smallest **continent**. It has around 44 countries, including England. About 740 million people live in Europe. It is the third largest **continent** in terms of **population**.



**Landmarks**  
Europe has many famous **landmarks**, including Stonehenge in England, the Matterhorn in Switzerland and the Eiffel Tower in France. **Landmarks** in other **continents** include the Yangtze River in China (which is in Asia) and the Great Barrier Reef located off the coast of Australia.



**Continent Facts**  
Half the world's **population** live in Asia.  
The largest **desert** in the world (the Sahara) is in Africa.  
North America is twice the size of Europe.  
Over half of Australia is **desert** or receives little rain.  
The Amazon **rainforest** is in South America.  
Antarctica is known as the 'frozen continent.'



Key Vocabulary	
<b>compass</b>	A piece of equipment that tells you what direction you are travelling in. The main compass points are north, south, east and west.
<b>climate</b>	The usual weather conditions of an area.
<b>equator</b>	An imaginary line drawn around the middle of Earth, dividing it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
<b>tropical</b>	Hot and humid.
<b>temperate</b>	Mild weather. Neither very hot nor very cold.
<b>capital city</b>	An important city, often where the government works.
<b>currency</b>	The money used in a country.
<b>cuisine</b>	Traditional food of a country.
<b>aerial</b>	Seen from above.

Climate	Countries around the world have different <b>climates</b> . <b>Climates</b> can be sorted into the following zones: warm, cold (or polar), <b>tropical</b> and <b>temperate</b> . Countries near the equator tend to have a hotter <b>climate</b> . Different animals are better suited to living in countries with a particular <b>climate</b> .
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Planning a Journey	When people plan a journey, they might use maps and a <b>compass</b> to help them. You can record a journey on a map using a journey line.
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Europe	Landmarks	Continent Facts
France is in Europe. Its <b>capital city</b> is Paris. The <b>currency</b> of France is the euro and the national language is French. The <b>climate</b> in France is mostly <b>temperate</b> . Visitors to France can enjoy the French <b>cuisine</b> , such as croissants and landmarks like the Arc De Triomphe.	We can look at <b>aerial</b> photos of places and see different features. Some of these are made (or changed) by humans, others are natural (made by nature).	Natural features include caves, rocks, cliffs, forests and mountains. Natural features are sometimes called 'physical features.' Features made by people include bridges, buildings and roads. These features are sometimes called 'human features.'



Key Vocabulary	
<b>beginning</b>	The start of something new.
<b>celebrate</b>	To take part in an enjoyable activities for a special occasion.
<b>ending</b>	The end or final part of something.
<b>reflect</b>	To think carefully about.
<b>Vaisakhi</b>	The Sikh Harvest celebration.
<b>founding</b>	The beginning or start of something.
<b>Sikh</b>	People who follow the religion of Sikhi.
<b>Panj Pyare</b>	The first members of Sikhi. Also known as the Beloved Five.
<b>justice</b>	Fairness.
<b>gurdwara</b>	A Sikh place of worship.

**Beginnings and Endings**

**Beginnings** can often be a time of excitement and happiness and a time to **celebrate**. **Endings** are often a time to remember and **reflect** and can sometimes be sad.

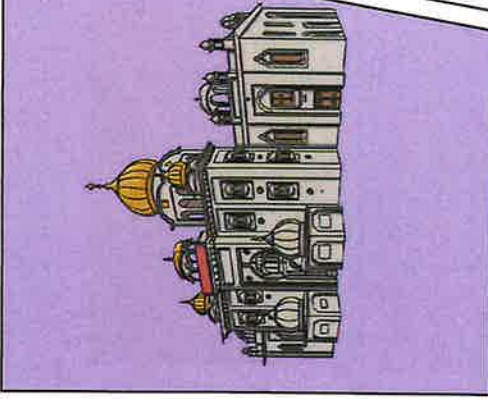
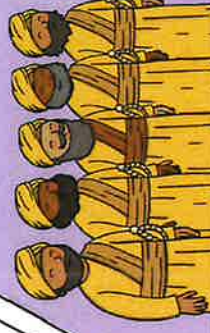


**Vaisakhi** began as a harvest festival and the **founding** of the religion.



**Vaisakhi**

During **Vaisakhi**, **Sikhs** remember the story of the **Panj Pyare** and how they gave up their everyday lives to follow Sikhi. The Panj Pyare represent the following: kindness, justice, organisation, courage and majesty.



**Naam Karan**

Naam Karan is a **Sikh**

baby naming ceremony. The baby is welcomed into the **Sikh** faith. Naam Karan takes place in a **gurdwara**. The **Sikh** holy book (the Guru Granth Sahib Ji) is opened at random. The first letter of the first word on that page is chosen to be the first letter of the baby's name. Once the name has been chosen, everybody cheers. For their second name, girls are called Kaur (princess) and boys are called Singh (lion).

<b>Key Vocabulary</b>	A ceremony welcoming a person into the Christian church.
<b>baptism</b>	
<b>symbolises</b>	When something stands for something else.
<b>sins</b>	Christians believe that sins are wrong actions, that are not what God would want a person to do.
<b>Christian</b>	People who follow the religion of Christianity.
<b>resurrection</b>	When Jesus came back to life after death.
<b>crucifixion</b>	When Jesus was put to death on a cross.
<b>Bar/Bat Mitzvah</b>	A Jewish celebration for the beginning of adulthood.

**Jesus' Baptism**

John the Baptist **baptised** Jesus in the River Jordan. When Jesus came up from under the water, the sun came out and a dove flew down. Jesus heard God's voice say, "This is my son. I love him and I am pleased with him." Water is used in **baptism** and **symbolises** a person's sins being washed away and the **beginning** of their journey of faith as a **Christian**.



**Christians** are often **baptised** as a baby, when they are given their name, but they can also be **baptised** as an older child or an adult. Gifts are often given at **baptisms**.

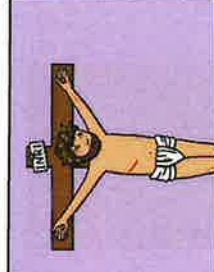
**Easter**

**Christians celebrate** Easter to remember the story in the Bible of Jesus' **crucifixion** and **resurrection**. **Christians** believe that Jesus died so that everyone's **sins** could be forgiven.



At Easter time, **Christians** go to church, send cards and give Easter eggs. Easter eggs **symbolise** the new life, as a **Christian**, that God promises to those that believe in him.

**Celebrating Easter**



**Endings**

An **ending** can also be a **beginning**. The end of Jesus' life was the **beginning** of hope and new life for **Christians**. Other **beginning** and **ending** ceremonies are **celebrated** by different religions, such as **Bar/Bat Mitzvah** and weddings.

