



Address: High Street, Harefield, Middlesex, UB9 6BT

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Web: www.harefieldinfant.com

Executive Head Teacher: Mr A.Sunner

Head of School: Mr J.Downs

Thursday 9th January 2025

Dear Year 2 parents/carers,

Year 2 Curriculum Letter – Spring (1st half)

Message from the teachers

Happy New Year to you all, we hope you had a fabulous festive break and welcome you all back to school.

This letter will briefly outline some of the lessons that year 2 will have fun exploring through the first half term of the spring 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

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

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 **Friday**. These are to be returned the following **Friday**.

We will also visit the school library each **Monday** 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 half term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

English

Year 2 will be reading 'Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl and use this to create their own 'Rags To Riches Tale' where they will create a character who happens to be poor but becomes rich. Later this half term, they will use the same text to write a recount.



Mathematics

In maths this half term, Year 2 will look at money, multiplication and division. They will learn to count money in pence and pounds. The children will build on the learning from earlier in the block, choosing notes and coins to make a given amount.

Array

Rows and columns with an equal amount in each.



$$3 \times 5 = 15$$

Later in term, we will move onto multiplication and division. The children will learn multiplication using equal groups and arrays and learn to divide by sharing into equal groups.

In year 2, children need to know their 2, 5, and 10 times tables confidently. Daily practice of these at home would support greatly.

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 'Circuit Training'. In this, children build their overall fitness through a variety of different activities, each based on a different skill.

Elder class will be having outdoor P.E. on **Friday**. The outdoor P.E. unit this term is called 'Invasion Games', where children will develop their understanding of the fundamental principles of invasion games, such as attacking, defending, scoring and teamwork.

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 **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.

Science

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

Geography

In Geography, year 2 topic is 'Magical Mapping' – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.

Religious Education

Year 2 topic is 'Light and Dark' – attached is a knowledge organiser with more information about what the children will be learning this unit.



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Music

We are very fortunate to have a specialist music teacher in school every Monday (Birch) and Wednesday (Elder) 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 'Dreams and Goals' the children will learn how to stay motivated when doing something challenging. Children will have the opportunities to work with a partner or in a group to help each other find ways to achieve their dreams and goals.

Computing






The computing unit this term is called 'Online Safety'. The children will look at how to improve the efficiency of their online searches, the type of websites that are best for children to access when looking for information, as well as how to identify inappropriate content and the actions they should take if they do. Children will be introduced to the term 'cyberbullying' and consider how they should communicate online.

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

- **plant** - a living thing that usually grows in soil 
- **flower** - the part of a plant that blooms 
- **fruit** - a part of a plant that contains seeds 
- **vegetable** - a part of a plant that can be eaten as food, such as a stem, root or leaf 
- **herb** - a plant that can be used to flavour food 
- **compost** - a type of soil 
- **sunlight** - the light from the Sun 

- **independent variable** (what will change) - the amount of light the plant receives 

- **dependent variable** (what will be measured) - the growth of the plants, the height of the plants 

- **controlled variables** (what is kept the same) - the number of seeds in a pot, the amount of water the plant receives, the amount of soil in the pots 

- **blossom** - the flowering part of a tree 

- **stem** - the long and thin part of a plant which sits above the soil 

- **leaf** - the flat, green part of a plant that grows from the stem or branch 

Knowledge

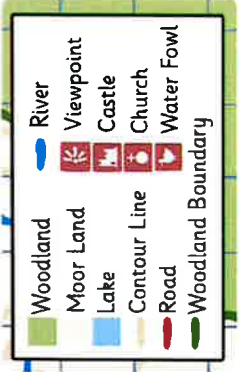







- A plant is a living thing.
- There are many different types of plants.
- Many plants have flowers or fruit.
- Parts of some plants can be eaten.
- Trees have roots, a trunk, branches and leaves.
- Many trees have blossom or fruit.
- Flowering plants have roots, a stem, leaves and petals.
- Plants need water to grow and stay healthy.
- Plants need light to grow and stay healthy.
- If plants do not have water and light, they may become weak and not grow properly.

- **seed** - a part of a plant that can grow into a new plant 

- **trunk** - the main stem of a tree 

- **branch** - the part of a tree that grows from the trunk 

sketch map	A simple map with only basic details.
key	Helps us understand map symbols. Also known as a legend.
compass rose	This is printed on a map to show different directions.
map symbol	A picture or a sign on a map that represents something else.
Ordnance Survey	A survey organisation in the UK which prepares very detailed maps of the country.
route	A way of getting from a start point to a finish point.
compass	A tool which shows people which direction they are travelling in and helps them find their way.
climate	The usual weather conditions of an area.

What Is a Map?	A map is a drawing of an actual place that uses lines and symbols to represent real-life objects. People have used maps for hundreds of years to help them travel from place to place.	Types of Maps	There are many different types of maps, such as: Sketch maps Road maps Ordnance Survey maps Climate maps
Key Features	Key features of maps include: a title, a compass rose , symbols , a key and different colours for important things, such as green for forests and blue for rivers.	Compass Directions	People use a compass to help them position and use a map accurately. The main points of a compass are north, south, east and west.
Key Features		Planning a Route	When planning a journey using a map, people think about the quickest or safest route .
			
			
			
			

Key Vocabulary	
atlas	A collection of maps in one book.
continent	A very large area of land that includes all the islands with it. There are seven continents : Africa, Antarctica, Australasia, Asia, Europe, North America and South America.
ocean	A large area of salt water. There are five oceans : the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans .
physical feature	A feature that has been formed by nature.
aerial view	A view from above. Also known as a 'bird's-eye' view.
human feature	A feature that has been made or changed by humans, e.g. bridges.

Using an Atlas

An **atlas** shows maps of **continents**, countries, **oceans** and the **physical features** of a place. Its contents page shows a list of all the maps and the page that they can be found on. The index page lists, in alphabetical order, all of the countries, cities and towns that can be found in the **atlas** and shows which page number to look on.

Did you know?

A map maker is called a cartographer.

The oldest maps were made on clay tablets.



Physical Features

Atlases show us the **physical features** of a place. These can include forests, lakes and rivers. On the index page beside the page number, there is sometimes a letter that tells you the kind of feature it is, e.g. m = mountain and r = river.



An Aerial View

Maps are usually drawn from an **aerial view**. We can look at **aerial** photographs to see the main **physical** and **human** features of places. **Aerial** photos are photos taken by aircraft or other flying objects, e.g. drones. A satellite photo is taken from a satellite in space.

More About Maps

Did You Know...?

Maps cannot possibly show everything. They are drawn to scale.

Seas are smaller areas of water than **oceans**. They are found where the land and water meet.



Key Vocabulary	
exile	To be made to stay away from home.
diya	A small oil lamp (usually made from clay).
Hanukkah	The Jewish festival of light (also known as Chanukah).
Jewish	A follower of Judaism or something of the religion.
miracle	An amazing event that happened but cannot be explained.
menorah	A special candlestick used in Jewish worship.
celebrate	To take part in enjoyable activities for a special occasion.
Diwali	The Hindu festival of light.
Hindu	Followers of the religion of Hindu Dharma.

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'.



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 **diyas** at **Diwali**.



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

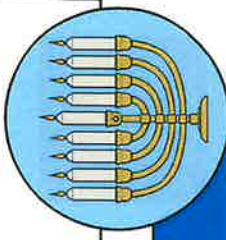


Hanukkah

Hanukkah celebrates one of the greatest **miracles** in **Jewish** history. King Antiochus attacked Jerusalem and destroyed the temple, the **Jewish** place of worship. The Maccabees defeated Antiochus but there was only enough oil to keep the special temple lamp lit for one day. However, the lamp kept burning for eight days until more oil could be found. It kept burning for eight days and nights - a **miracle!**

The Hanukkah

A Hanukkah is a nine-branched menorah. Each night of **Hanukkah**, a branch of the Hanukkah is lit as a reminder of the **Hanukkah miracles**. One of the branches is taller or separate from the others. This is called the shamash, or helper, candle. The shamash is used to light the other branches.

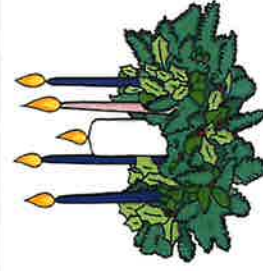


Hanukkah is celebrated in November or December each year.

Key Vocabulary

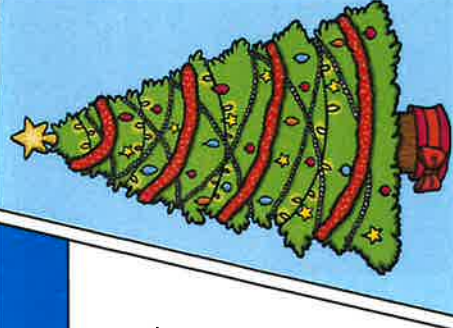
Advent	The four weeks leading up to Christmas (starting on the nearest Sunday to 30 th November).
Christians	Followers of the religion of Christianity.
Christmas	The Christian festival that celebrates the birth of Jesus . Christmas Day is celebrated on 25 th December.
Jesus	The founder of Christianity, believed by Christians to be the Son of God.

Advent

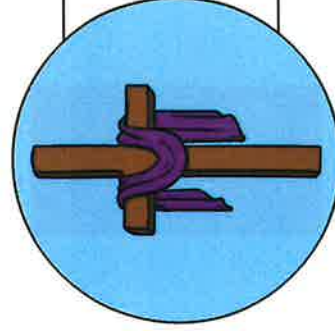


Advent is the start of the **Christian** year. It is when **Christians** start to prepare for **Christmas**. Churches display an **Advent** crown or wreath. These have four candles which represent hope, peace, faith, love and joy. Some **Advent** wreaths have a fifth white candle in the middle which represents **Jesus**.

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 Wise Men to Bethlehem. Many churches and schools hold Christmas 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.'



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.