



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

Tel: 01895 462399

Email: office@harefieldinfant.com

Web: www.harefieldinfant.com

Executive Head Teacher: Mr A.Sunner

Head of School: Mr J.Downs

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Year 2 parents/carers,

Year 2 Curriculum Letter - Autumn (1st 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.

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 Mac

Birch class teacher: Miss Heffernan

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

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.

HAPPINESS · COMPASSION · RESPECT · TEAMWORK

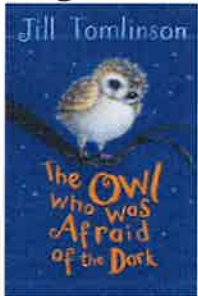
Library

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.

Mo and Kim are counting backwards from 100



What numbers will they both :
What do you notice?

Here is a whale and a horse.



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

Science

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.



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

Tel: 01895 462399

Email: office@harefieldinfant.com

Web: www.harefieldinfant.com

Executive Head Teacher: Mr A. Sunner

Head of School: Mr J. Downs

Geography

The Year 2 geography unit this term is called 'Sensational Safari'. 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 'Digital Artists'. This unit introduces children to the skills associated with painting pictures on a PC device.

Art and Design

'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. Birch class will have music on a Monday and Elder class will have music on a Wednesday.



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

Tel: 01895 462399

Email: office@harefieldinfant.com

Web: www.harefieldinfant.com

Executive Head Teacher: Mr A.Sunner

Head of School: Mr J.Downs

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 Mac and Miss Heffernan

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

endangered	A species of animal or plant that is at risk of becoming extinct (no longer existing).
game reserve	A protected area of land where humans are allowed to live and carry out some different activities.
habitat	The natural home of a plant or animal.
migration	When animals move from one area to another, often to find food, water or shelter.
national park	A protected area of land where only tourism and research is allowed. No humans live there.
rural	Areas away from towns or cities, also known as the countryside.
savannah	Tropical grasslands with shrubs and trees but not much rainfall.
tourists	People who travel for fun.

Where is Kenya?

- Located in east Africa.
- Population of around 44 million.
- The capital city is Nairobi.
- Mombasa, situated on the coast, is one of Kenya's largest cities.
- The Tana river is the longest river in Kenya.
- Mount Kenya is the highest mountain (5200m).
- Kenya's coastline is on the Indian Ocean.
- Swahili and English are the official languages.



Weather and Climate

Kenya lies on the equator.	Climate is hot, sunny and dry for most of the year.
Hot, dry deserts in the north.	Hot and humid in the west.
The highlands are cool.	Mount Kenya is high enough to be covered in snow all year round.

National Parks and Reserves

- There are over 50 national parks and game reserves.
- They include different types of wildlife and habitats, including wetlands, grasslands, forest and savannah.
- The Maasai Mara National Reserve is one of the most popular reserves for tourists to visit.
- Millions of tourists visit the famous reserve to go on safari, explore the landscape and to see the amazing wildlife, including the 'Big Five'.
- Each year visitors come to watch the huge migration of wildebeest.
- Some animals in Kenya are endangered and are protected within the parks and reserves.

The Maasai Tribe

- Maasai people traditionally live in mud huts made from mud, sticks, grass and cow dung.
- Many Maasai are farmers and own large herds of cows, goats and sheep.
- The Maasai people love music and dance. They often sing and the men perform a special jumping dance.

Traditional mud hut.

School Life in Kenya

- Most children in Kenya go to school, but not all of them.
- Some children, especially in rural areas, are too busy helping their families by working on the farm, cooking or fetching water.
- At school, some children may be different ages but in the same year group.

Maasai Tribe.

The Big Five - the largest and most dangerous African animals

				
African lion	African elephant	Cape buffalo	African leopard	White/black rhinoceros

Key Vocabulary

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

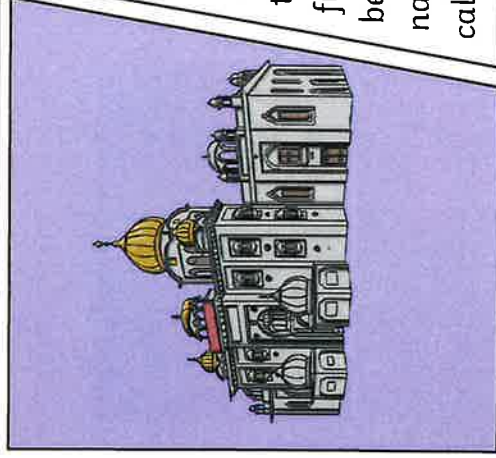
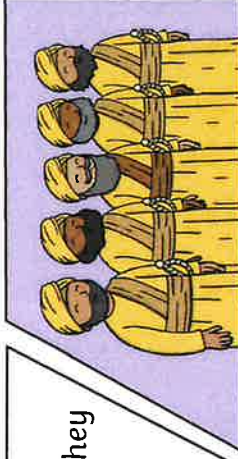


Vaisakhi began as a harvest festival and the **founding** of the religion.



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).

Key Vocabulary

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

Jesus' Baptism

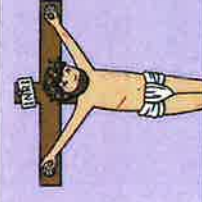
John the Baptist **baptised** Jesus in the River Jordan. When Jesus came up from under the water, the sun came out and a dove flew down. Jesus heard God's voice say, "This is my son. I love him and I am pleased with him." Water is used in **baptism** and **symbolises** a person's sins being washed away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

