

Welcome to Year 2



Mrs Ashford – Class Teacher
Mrs Earl – Teaching Assistant

Year 2 is a year full of new challenges and this year we have some great topics to inspire and motivate the children to achieve and exceed the expected outcomes by the end of the year.

Our first topic is called 'It's great to be me' In this topic we will be learning all about ourselves and our local environment. In our topic called 'Fire, Fire!' we will look at our Capital City of London and discuss The Great Fire of London. Then we will cover our topic called 'Dare to be different.' In this topic we will be learning about the impact that key people had on our lives. We will then learn about heroes from the past including Florence Nightingale in our topic 'Nurturing Nurses.' In the Summer term we will be 'Going Wild' and learning all about plants and a different continent.

Please see the separate topic plans and knowledge organisers for more details of what the children will be learning.

What to expect in Year 2

Arriving at school and the morning routine

In Year 2 we expect the children to show independence by coming into school on their own, organising and looking after their belongings.

The children will be greeted at the classroom door and they will be expected to hang up their coat on their allocated peg. Take their reading folder out of their book bag, put it away in a labelled box and then hang their book bag on their peg or put it away in their drawer. Their water bottle needs to go in the water bottle tray. Next, they will sit at their table ready to complete the 'Early morning challenge'.

It is important that the children arrive on time to register and that they don't miss the *Early Work* that has been set for them to do.

Mrs Ashford or Mrs Earl will be standing at the classroom door from 8.40am so if you have any messages that you wish to pass on do so then alternatively you can catch her at the end of the day. If you wish to discuss something in greater depth please make an appointment at the school office.

Lunches

It is really important that the children know what they are having for lunch each day; packed lunch or a hot school dinner Please discuss this with your child and pre-order online.

Uniform and other items

Please ensure all uniform (including, coats and shoes) plus water bottles and book bags, is labelled clearly with your child's name.

Please check that your child has all the required PE kit – light blue T-shirt with school logo, black shorts, plain black hooded sweatshirt, plain black track suit trousers for cold weather, trainers and a pair of socks. We will be going outside in cooler weather so it is important your child has warm P.E. clothes as well as shorts.

P.E bags will be left in school and will be sent home each half term unless we have got particularly muddy or soaking wet during a lesson.



Reading

In Year 2 the children will have a reading book appropriate to their ability. At St Lawrence we do not have one set reading scheme to follow; we use a variety of books from a range of schemes and non-scheme books. If your child is taking part in daily phonics lessons, this will include two phonics books. When ready your child will move to the Accelerated Reader scheme, or 'quiz books' as the children know them as. Once they have finished reading their book, they will complete an online quiz at school where they will answer questions about the book they have read. They can change their book when they have completed the quiz. We will help your child to choose a book appropriate to their reading ability.

How you can support your child's reading at home

- Please hear your child read as often as possible. The children earn house points for reading at home!
- Record a short comment in their reading diary.
- Read to your child daily; a variety of stories as well as non-fiction.
- Read the list of 'tricky' words often (they must be able to spell these by the end of Year 2) so that the children are really familiar with them and this will help their spelling.

Guided Reading

Guided reading will take place every day. They will be in small groups with an adult and will read a section of a text (fiction or non-fiction) and will answer questions based on what has been read. This will help their retrieval and inference skills. On other days when they are not with an adult they will carry out other reading skills activities.

Library

The children can choose a book from the library to take home. This is an opportunity for the children to enjoy the library and choose a book out of interest. Please share these books with your children. Our library day will be decided in September.

Writing

The children will continue to practise correct sentence structure and letter formation. To reach the expected level for writing by the end of Year 2 the children need to have correctly formed, regular sized letters. They will be encouraged to start to join their letters when they are ready. Please encourage this whenever your child practises their writing at home.

Writing in Year 2 takes place daily and involves writing in a variety of genres. The focus will be to increase writing stamina and produce more lengthy pieces of work which are both interesting to read and correctly punctuated.

Spelling

In Year 2 the children will be given a list of common exception words that all Year 2 children are expected to be able to spell by the end of the year. The children also have access to this list on their tables to support spelling during lessons. Spelling rules will be taught and there will be spellings to learn at home as part of the children's weekly homework.

Maths

We aim to make maths as fun and as practical as possible. The National Curriculum is challenging so we appreciate your support in reinforcing and practising concepts at home.

Areas you can practise at home are:

- Telling the time
- Using money – adding, finding change.
- Naming and describing 2d and 3d shapes – sides, edges, vertices, faces, right angles.
- Counting up to 100 and beyond
- Writing numbers to 100 and beyond in words and figures.
- Counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s
- Reciting times tables – expected to know 2s, 3s, 5s, 10s by end of Year 2
- Measure height. Use scales to weigh cooking ingredients. Discuss different units of measure e.g. centimetres, millimetres, grams, litres.



Please remember to be positive at all times. Make it into a game if possible. Don't pursue any area where your child is clearly uncomfortable.

Homework

English / maths

Once a week for each subject

Reading

Please read regularly with your child – 10 minutes every school night is ideal.

Spelling

Practise weekly spellings

Times tables

Recite 2s, 5s, 10s

What does a typical day in Year 2 look like?

The mornings usually follow the same timetable of maths and English activities. The afternoon sessions vary from day to day and half term to half term. We take on a half termly topic so our science, history or geography, design technology, art and music usually relate to the topic. Other subject areas including computing, R.E, Personal Social, Health, Emotional and Citizenship education (PSHE&C) and P.E. are taught every week as discrete subjects. All sessions include focused, adult-led tasks and independent tasks. Here is an example of a day in Year 2:

8.40am – Classroom doors open. Registration and Early Morning work.

9.00am – Collective Worship

9.15am – Maths

10.30am – Playtime

10.45am - English

11.45am – Phonics

12.15 – 1.15pm - Lunchtime

1.15pm – Register

1.10pm – Guided Reading

1.30pm - Topic lesson (which might be science, history, geography, art or DT based).

2.15-2.30pm **Playtime**

2.30pm – Music

3.00pm - Story

3.15pm – Hometime



We will have P.E. twice a week. We will confirm these days with you at the start of the academic year.

I hope this information is useful. Please ask if you are unsure of anything.

Year 2 common exception words

The children are expected to be able to spell these by the end of the year.

door	climb	after	improve
floor	most	last	sure
poor	only	fast	sugar
because	both	past	eye
find	old	father	could
mind	cold	class	should
kind	hold	grass	would
behind	told	pass	who
child	gold	plant	whole
children	every	path	any
wild	everybody	bath	many
even	steak	hour	clothes
great	pretty	move	busy
break	beautiful	prove	people
water	again	half	money
Mr	Mrs	parents	Christmas

All other end of year expectations can be found on the school website.