



The Blake CE Primary School

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Committed to the care and education of your child within a Christian setting

Year 2 Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer holiday. The children have quickly settled into their new classes and we are all looking forward to a busy and successful year.

Year 2 Staff

We have a wonderful team in Year 2 to support your children. As well as the teachers Mrs. Rump, Mrs. Usher-Wilson and Mr. Noble, we are very lucky to be supported by a team of dedicated and enthusiastic teaching assistants including Mr. Morris, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Sayles, Mrs. Senter, Mrs. Oldfield, Mrs. Squires, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Hurley.

Academic Expectations, Attainment and Progress for the End of Key Stage 1 (End of Year 2)

As a school we believe in delivering a broad curriculum, based firmly on our whole school values. Whilst we feel it is essential to be aware of and aim to achieve the expectations required by the government in Reading, Writing (including SPAG) and Maths (see handout), we are firmly of the belief that progress is measured by each individual child achieving their next step; this may look very different from one child to another.

The Curriculum in Year 2

In Maths we follow the National Curriculum. We are keen to ensure that the children have an excellent knowledge of Key Instant Recall of Facts (KIRFs), for example number bonds to 10/20, basic times tables and can talk about the Maths that they are learning in order to build up a really strong understanding of Number, Place Value and how to solve problems. Each week, the children will complete a KIRFS or 'Table Card' quiz, details of which will be in our weekly letter from the previous Friday. We hope to complete this quiz individually or in pairs in order to focus on the individual child's next step and help them to understand that to progress and achieve we strive to improve from week to week.

For English we will continue to teach Phonics for a short session each day which is proving very successful in developing the children's reading and spelling skills. We will also do extended writing and SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) to further develop the children's composition skills. Every Friday the children will complete a 'Spelling Quiz', focussing on the spellings detailed in our weekly letter from the previous Friday.

Our History topic for Term 1 and 2 is The Great Fire of London and Samuel Pepys. In Science our topic is 'Animals Including Humans' which builds on the work the children did in Year 1. In Computing we will be exploring a Great Fire of London game, practising general keyboard and computing skills and beginning to investigate programming. Indoor PE will focus on apparatus work in Term 1 and in

outdoor PE we will be developing running, jumping, throwing and catching skills. In Design and Technology we will be creating our own Pudding Lane Tudor houses and we welcome any cereal boxes!

Reading and Maths at Home

The children will be reading in class a great deal during our Phonics sessions and also through regular guided reading sessions. They will continue with their reading diaries in Year 2 and read individually with an adult as often as possible. If your child has finished their book at home, both classes have 'Book Change' boxes where the children are encouraged to place their book bags.

For homework we ask that each day your child

- reads for at least 5 minutes with an adult,
- practises the weekly spellings using their Spelling Superhero books,
- practises their Table Cards/**KIRFs** (Term 1/2 - Know all the addition and subtraction number bonds up to 10 then 20 and count forwards and backwards in 2's, 5's 10's).

The children are encouraged to extend their maths homework for example by recording ways that number bonds can be useful in everyday life e.g. $10p - 7p = ?$ or by learning their multiplication and division number facts.

Occasionally we include special challenges for homework, like designing your own maths game or creating a fact file poster on an important historical figure.

In our weekly newsletter we will also be sharing our value of the month with you and ask you to challenge the children's thinking by asking questions about what they have learnt in school.

Below are a few websites that you might find useful or which the children may be interested in using at home to follow up their learning in class.

www.starfall.com www.topmarks.com www.year2maths.co.uk www.mathszone.co.uk
<http://www.conkermaths.org/cmweb.nsf/pages/numberbondpairs.html>
<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/maths/index.html> www.ictgames.com www.iboard.co.uk

PE

PE kits (indoor and outdoor) are needed in school for the term. For both classes, indoor PE is on Mondays and outdoor PE is on a Tuesday for Mrs. Rump's class and a Thursday for Mrs. Usher-Wilson's class. At times it may be necessary to swap days depending on the weather. Please make sure your child has black jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt for outdoor PE as we will be going outside, even when the weather gets colder. Long hair needs to be tied back for PE and so a hair-tie should be brought if required. Earrings need to be removed by the child prior to the start of the lesson or taped over. Some children choose not to wear earrings on PE days as they find this easier. We would ask that all kit and school uniform is **named** as it makes it easier to return lost items. P.E. is part of our curriculum and so children are expected to take part in all lessons unless a letter is brought excusing them for medical reasons.

Cloakrooms

Well done to all the children for adapting so well to their new cloakrooms and expectations. We would ask the children to line up outside the cloakroom door and come in ready to start the day independently. We encourage the children to be responsible for their own book bags each day. If you could ensure everything is **named**, this will hopefully make things a little easier for both children and adults.

Snacks and Water Bottles

Please ensure your child comes to school with a snack and a water bottle every day, which is separate from their packed lunch. A government snack of fruit is provided for the afternoon break.

Going Home

If your child is going home with someone different, please inform the class teacher or TA at the start of the day or contact the school office if plans change during the day. It is important, to ensure the children's safety, that we know who is going to be collecting them at the end of the day.

We want to make sure that the children have a fantastic time in Year 2. We also aim to ensure that they continue to develop a love of learning and build their confidence and independence. The link between home and school is vitally important, so please come and see us if you have any concerns or simply wish to catch up on how your child is getting on in school. Although there are set dates for parents' evenings, please don't feel you have to wait until then to come and talk to us. Please feel free to catch us before or after school to arrange a meeting, send a letter or call the school office if you are unable to see us at school.

We look forward to a busy, happy and successful year for all!

Mrs. Rump, Mr. Noble, Mrs. Usher-Wilson and the Year 2 team.