

Year 2
Curriculum Letter
Spring Term 1 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas. We would like to thank you again for our lovely Christmas gifts; it was extremely generous of you, and we really appreciate your kindness and well wishes! This letter is a detailed overview of our curriculum for this half-term showing the areas of study for each subject. During this half term, much of our learning will be inspired by the book '**Commotion in the Ocean**' by **Giles Andreae**. It will spark exploration into world's amazing oceans and the animals that live there. There will be lots of cross-curricular links to help make the learning meaningful for the pupils. In We Read, we will be reading Quentin Blake books including "**Mister Magnolia**", "**Simpkin**", "**Angelica Sprockets Pockets**", "**Cockatoos**", "**Mrs Armitage on Wheels**" and "**Patrick**". In Once upon a time, we will be reading books related to the ocean including '**The Snail and the Whale**' by Julia Donaldson, '**The Storm Whale**' by Benji Davies and '**The Secret of the Black Rock**' by Joe Todd-Stanton. Please see the dates below as well as checking the calendar on our website. Our PE day this half term is **Tuesday**. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to me either in the morning or after school, you can also write a message in their planner. If you wish to contact me our class email address is year2@gadevalley.herts.sch.uk, however please be aware that a response may take up to 48 hours, therefore if you have an urgent question or concern, please contact the school office on 01442 391324. Our class page is also updated weekly with what the pupils have been doing.

Kind regards,

Miss Kavanagh, Mrs Happe and Ms Coates

English	<p>Across all writing, the pupils will be taught how to punctuate their work correctly with capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They will also be taught how to punctuate their writing with question marks, exclamation marks, commas and apostrophes for possession and omission.</p> <p>Week 1: 2 Poetry - Using the book 'Commotion in the Ocean' by Giles Andreae, the pupils will identify rhyming, adjectives and description. This will use their description of various sea creatures to help them create their own shape poems.</p> <p>Week 3 - 5: Non-fiction - The pupils will research different types of sharks using books and the internet. They will explore the features of non-fiction books whilst researching. Some of the books that we will use include 'Shark' by DK Eyewitness and 'Sharks' by DK Findout! The pupils will then write a report about sharks.</p> <p>Week 6: The pupils will then research their own sea creature and write a report about it.</p> <p>Phonics /spelling:</p> <p>Week 2: Teach the sound spelt o. Review the sound spelt ve at the end of words.</p> <p>Week 3: Review the sound spelt or/ ore. Review the sound spelt aw or au. Teach the sound spelt a before l and ll.</p> <p>Week 4: Review the sound spelt ar. Review the sound spelt are. Review the sound spelt air or ear.</p> <p>Week 5: Review the sound spelt ear. Review the sound spelt ea. Teach homophones.</p> <p>Week 6: Review adding the suffix -est with no change to the root word. Teach irregular plurals. Teach plurals of words ending in y.</p> <p>Handwriting: The pupils will learn to join using continuous cursive handwriting. This will be taught on a daily basis, as well as practised throughout the curriculum. If you would like guidance on how to support your child with handwriting at home, there is a great website that shows you videos of how to form each of the letters: Go to https://teachhandwriting.co.uk/, click on 'Parents' and then select 'Continuous Cursive' in the letters section. The pupils can also practise joining two letters together in the 'joining' section of the website.</p> <p>We Read: The pupils will take part in whole class guided reading, focussing on decoding the text, understanding vocabulary, reading pace and comprehension skills. They will also regularly read with an adult on a 1:1 basis. This half term, we will be reading books by Quentin Blake including "Mister Magnolia", "Simpkin", "Angelica Sprockets Pockets", "Cockatoos", "Mrs Armitage on Wheels" and "Patrick".</p> <p>Once upon a time: At the end of each day, we read a high quality text to the pupils for 15 minutes. These sessions promote and develop a love of reading as pupils are exposed to books and genres that they might not naturally choose themselves. This half term we will be reading books related to the ocean including 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson, 'The Storm Whale' by Benji Davies and 'The Secret of the Black Rock' by Joe Todd-Stanton.</p>
Maths	<p>Week 1 Money (pounds and pence)- The pupils will learning about money. They will be adding amounts of money in pence and pounds.</p> <p>Week 2: Money (making amounts)- The pupils will be identifying the coins and notes needed to make different amounts of money as well as comparing amounts. They will also be finding change and solving word problems.</p> <p>Week 3: Grouping- The pupils will be recognising equal groups, making equal groups and adding equal groups.</p> <p>Week 4: Arrays- The pupils will be learning to show multiplication sums as arrays.</p> <p>Week 5: 2 times table - The pupils will be learning their 2 times tables (multiplication and division) as well as learning doubling and halving. They will also be identifying odd and even numbers.</p> <p>Week 6: 5 and 10 times tables- The pupils will be learning their 5 and 10 times table and related division facts.</p> <p>Take 5: The pupils will also be taking part in 15-minute consolidation sessions each afternoon to revise a range of core mathematical concepts, including place value, addition and subtraction strategies and number facts.</p>

Science	Living things and their habitats: The pupils will learn about a variety of habitats and the plants and animals that live there. They will learn to tell the difference between things that are living, dead and things that have never been alive, and apply this in a range of contexts. They will make observations of a local habitat and the creatures that live there, investigating conditions in local microhabitats and how they affect the minibeasts found within them. In addition to this, the pupils will research a range of global habitats and explore how the living things that live there are suited to their environments. We will link some of this learning to our book, 'Commotion in the Ocean'.
Computing	Programming - Robot algorithms: This unit develops the pupils understanding of instructions in sequences and the use of logical reasoning to predict outcomes. Pupils will use given commands in different orders to investigate how the order affects the outcome. They will also learn about design in programming. Pupils will develop artwork and test it for use in a program. Then, they will design algorithms and test those algorithms as programs finally debugging them.
P.S.H.C.E.	Dreams and goals: The pupils will choose a realistic goal and think about how to achieve it. They will also learn how to persevere even when they find tasks difficult. Furthermore, the pupils will focus on working with others and will learn how to work co-operatively in a group to create an end product.
Geography	'Why is our world wonderful?': The pupils will be learning to identify and locate characteristics of the UK on a map. We will also be identifying and locating human and physical features on a world map. The pupils will be using an aerial photograph to draw a simple sketch map. We will collect data by sketching findings on a map, completing a tally chart and presenting our findings in a bar chart.
D&T	Textiles: Pouches- The pupils will be given a design criteria to design their own pouch based around the sea. The pupils will then prepare and cut their own fabric template and use a running stitch to join two pieces of fabric together. Then they will explore a range of fabrics to add texture and decoration to their design. Finally, they will evaluate their pouch.
P.E.	Dance: In PE, the pupils will be learning about dance. They will be exploring space and how their body can move to express an idea, mood, character and feelings. They will use counts of 8 consistently to keep in time with the music and a partner. Pupils will build on their understanding of dynamics and expression. Throughout this unit, the pupils will get the opportunity to work independently, with a partner and in a small group to create performances to show to an audience. Please ensure your child comes into school in their school PE kit. This can include a dark blue or black tracksuit with suitable footwear. Please provide ear tape if earrings or jewellery are unable to be removed. Please note our PE lesson is on a Thursday.
Music	'I Wanna Play In A Band': This term the pupils will be learning a song called ' I Wanna Play In A Band' which is a Rock song composed for children. This unit is split into three sections: Listen & Appraise, Musical Activities and finally Perform the Song. During the Listen & Appraise the pupils will have an opportunity to listen and ask questions about other famous Rock songs and artists. They will develop their knowledge by exploring musical games and instruments as well as learning to perform their final version of the song.
Homework	Reading: Your child should read aloud to an adult at home at least 5 times a week. Please record this in their planner to help your child achieve the different reading certificates. There are lots of other rewards your child can earn (as well as certificates) including golden tickets and special prizes for reaching the top of our Reading Rocket on our class reading display. Planners and reading books should be in school every day. Books will be changed every Tuesday and Friday if the whole book has been read twice. This will help develop the children's decoding and comprehension skills. Times Tables: We will be introducing TT Rockstars to your child this half term. Guidance and logins will be sent home to you in their reading records.

Special dates and events this half-term:

- Thursday 22nd January- Doodlebug Workshop
- Monday 26th January- Drama Workshop
- Wednesday 4th February- Year 2 Athletics Festival
- Monday 9th February- Friday 13th February: E-Safety Week
- Tuesday 10th February: Internet Safety Day
- Friday 13th February- End of half term (3:10pm finish)

- Monday 23rd February- Start of Spring 2 Term