

**Year 2**  
**Curriculum Letter**  
**Autumn Term 2 2025**



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely half term break! This letter is a detailed overview of our curriculum for this half-term showing the areas of study for each subject. We have lots to look forward to this half term, particularly in the run up to Christmas. We will be reading "The Squirrels who Squabbled", "The Koala who Could", "The Hugasaurus", "The Worrysaurus" and "The Lion Inside" by Rachel Bright, "Be Brave Little Penguin" by Giles Andreae for We Read and in Once upon a time, we will be reading "Christmasaurus" by Tom Fletcher. 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 for that week.

Kind regards,

Miss Kavanagh, Mrs Happe and Ms Coates

**English**

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.

**Week 1: Narrative** - The pupils will explore different vocabulary, as well as formal and informal language whilst reading the text 'The Pirates Next Door' by Jonny Duddle. After becoming familiar with the story, they will re-write the story.

**Weeks 2: Poetry** - We will create single-word calligrams based on fireworks, such as 'Bang!' and 'Shimmer'. As well as writing a list poem about fire.

**Weeks 3 - 4: Non-fiction** - Using the book, 'Toby and The Great Fire of London' by Margaret Nash, we will explore this historical event in detail. We will sequence the events and write a recount from the perspective of Samuel Pepys.

**Week 5:** Assessment and consolidation of core learning including: expanded noun phrases, conjunctions and correct tense.

**Weeks 6-7: Christmas Performance**- We will be rehearsing our Christmas play as well as completing a range of activities inspired by Christmas including: letter writing, poetry and reindeer fact files.

**Phonics /spelling:**

**Week 1:** Review adding the suffix -y where there is no change to the root word. Review the /i:/ sound spelt e-e or ie

**Week 2:** Review the /ai/ sound spelt igh or i. Review the /ai/ sound spelt i-e. Review the /ai/ sound spelt ie and teach the /ai/ sound spelt y

**Week 3:** Adding -ing to words with i-e: removing the e before adding -ing. Review the /au/ sound spelt ow or ou. Review the /oi/ sound spelt oy or oi

**Week 4:** Review the /əu/ sound spelt oa or o-e. Review the /əu/ sound spelt ow or oe. Review the /əu/ sound spelt o

**Week 5:** Review the /u:/ sound spelt oo or u-e. Review the /u:/ sound spelt ew or ue. Teach homophones

**Week 6:** Review the /ɜ:/ sound spelt ir or ur. Review /ɜ:/ sound spelt er, ir or ur. Review the unstressed sound /ə/ spelt er and or

**Week 7:** Review adding the suffix -er with no change to the root word. -le following adjacent consonants. -le at the end of words containing a long vowel or short vowel sound

**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.

**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 a range of stories including: "The Squirrels who Squabbled", "The Koala who Could", "The Hugasaurus", "The Worrysaurus" and "The Lion Inside" by Rachel Bright, "Be Brave Little Penguin" by Giles Andreae.

**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 the "Christmasaurus" by Tom Fletcher.

**Maths**

**Week 1 - 3: Addition and subtraction** - They will add and subtract smaller 2-digit numbers to and from larger ones. They will develop their understanding of crossing the tens when adding and subtracting as well as adding 10 more and 10 less. They will develop their reasoning and problem solving skills.

**Week 4: Measurement** - The pupils will explore using terms and vocabulary associated with position, direction and movement. They will also measure lengths using uniform units (centimetres and metres).

**Week 5:** Assessment and consolidation of core learning including addition, subtraction, place value and times tables.

**Week 6 and Week 7: Shape**- The pupils will focus on understanding 2D and 3D shapes. Knowing their properties and lines of symmetry. They will also be creating patterns using shapes.

**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.

<b>Science</b>	<b>Everyday materials: Materials matter</b> -The pupils will identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. This will link to our topic 'Fireworks and Flames' as we discuss what the houses were made of at the time of the Great Fire of London compared to nowadays.
<b>Computing</b>	<b>Digital photography:</b> In this unit, the pupils will learn to recognise that different devices can be used to capture photographs and will gain experience capturing, editing, and improving photos. Finally, they will use this knowledge to recognise that images they see may not be real.
<b>P.S.H.C.E.</b>	<b>Celebrating difference:</b> This half term we are following our Jigsaw theme of 'Celebrating differences'. The pupils will be learning how to stand up for themselves and others. In addition, they will discuss how to make a new friend, as well as celebrating their differences.
<b>History</b>	<b>Sappho (Pompeii):</b> The pupils will be learning about Sappho and her relation to the city of Pompeii. They will be developing their key historical skills, particularly investigating evidence and the use of cause and effect. The pupils will be learning about a specific event in history, such as the destruction of Pompeii, with a focus on how the event tells us about the lives of ordinary people at the time rather than the specific and intricate details of the event itself.
<b>Art</b>	<b>Drawing:</b> The pupils will be completing an observational drawing. Pupils will develop their mark-making to explore a wider range of tools and experiment with creating texture to add detail to drawings.
<b>P.E.</b>	<b>Gymnastics:</b> The pupils will develop their gymnastic skills of jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling individually as well as in combination to create short sequences and movement phrases. 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 Tuesday.
<b>RE</b>	<b>Christmas celebrations:</b> The pupils will be learning about why Christmas is special for Christians all over the world and how they celebrate this religious festival.
<b>Homework</b>	<b>Reading:</b> 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 <b>Tuesday and Friday</b> if the whole book has been read twice. This will help develop the children's decoding and comprehension skills.

#### **Special dates and events this half-term:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W/B Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November- Anti-Bullying Week</li> <li>• Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November- Celebration Evening (4:00pm-5:00pm)</li> <li>• Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November- Whole school Skipping Workshop</li> <li>• Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November- Dressing the Tree</li>   <li>• Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December- OCCASIONAL DAY</li> <li>• Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December- KS1 Christmas Play Performance (9:15 am and 2:30pm)</li> <li>• Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Fair</li> <li>• Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December- Christmas Dinner Day</li> <li>• Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December- School Disco (3:15pm-4:30pm)</li> <li>• Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December- END OF TERM finish at 1pm</li>   <li>• Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January- First Day Back (Spring Term)</li> </ul>
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