

Year 2
Curriculum Letter
Autumn Term 1 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had an enjoyable summer break and that your children are excited to be back at school! This letter is a detailed overview of our curriculum for this half-term showing the areas of study for each subject. Please note on the important dates below that there will be a 'Meet the Teacher' presentation on Monday 15th September where you can learn more about what to expect in Year 2. Our Class Assembly is on Wednesday 22nd October. For We Read we will be reading Julia Donaldson books including "**Monkey Puzzle**", "**The Snail and the Whale**", "**The Everywhere Bear**" and "**The Detective Dog**". In Once upon a time, we will be reading "**Fantastic Mr Fox**" and "**The Magic Finger**" by **Roald Dahl**. 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 reading record. If you wish to contact me our class email address is address 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: Transition activities - This will include writing about our goals for Year 2, improving sentences and writing a recount about an unbelievable summer holiday.

Weeks 2 and 3: Narrative - Using the book, '**The Colour Monster**' by **Anna Llenas**, we will explore emotions whilst developing our reading and writing skills. The pupils will learn how to write a narrative from the perspective of 'The Colour Monster'.

Weeks 4 and 5: Recount - There will be further writing opportunities inspired by the book '**Have you filled a bucket today**' by **Carol McCloud**. The pupils will be writing a recount of a personal experience.

Weeks 6- 8: 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 plan and write their own adventure story which could be a sequel to the book.

Phonics /spelling:

Week 1: Recap on phases 2, 3 and 4.

Week 2: Review Year 1 common exception words, single-syllable words, words ending with 'tch'.

Week 3: Adding -ing and -ed to the end of a word.

Week 4: Review sound spelt 'j' or 'g'. Words ending with -dge and -ge.

Week 5: Adding -s or -es. 'S' sound spelt c before e, i and y. Year 2 common exception words.

Week 6: Review sound spelt 'ai' or 'ay'. Review alternative spelling 'a-e' and 'a'.

Week 7: Adding -ed or -ing to words containing 'ai' or 'ay'. Review alternative spelling of 'ee' or 'ea'. Review sound spelt 'y'.

Week 8: Adding -y to the end of a word. Review alternative spelling of 'e-e' and 'ie'.

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 books by Julia Donaldson including: "**Monkey Puzzle**", "**The Snail and the Whale**", "**The Everywhere Bear**" and "**The Detective Dog**".

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 "**Fantastic Mr Fox**" and "**The Magic Finger**" by **Roald Dahl**.

Maths

Week 1-2: The pupils will practise number formation, as well as counting forwards and backwards in 1s and 10s.

Week 3: Place value - They will explore place value in numbers 0-100, including different ways of representing, comparing and ordering these numbers.

Weeks 4 - 5: Addition and subtraction - The pupils will explore addition and subtraction number facts, including bonds to 10, in simple and harder calculations.

Week 6: 2D shapes - They will identify and classify 2D shapes using a variety of sorting devices.

Weeks 7 -8: Place Value - The pupils will compare and order numbers to 100, including ordinal numbers

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.

Science

Animals including humans: The pupils will learn about five of the groups that scientists use to classify animals: mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians. They will learn to identify the group an animal belongs to by its features and will classify animals according to their group. As well as this, they will also learn about the different diets animals eat. The pupils will also learn about the parts of the human body and have the opportunity to explore the five senses through a simple investigation.

Computing	Basic Skills: The pupils will learn how to point and left click on a mouse, as well as learning how to use the keyboard to type. They will practise logging on to the school computers, in addition to logging on to TT Rock Stars. Computing systems and networks - Information Technology around us: In this unit, the pupils will look at information technology at school and beyond, in settings such as shops, hospitals, and libraries. They will investigate how information technology improves our world, and they will learn about using information technology responsibly.
P.S.H.C.E.	Being me in my world: For P.S.H.C.E, The pupils will learn about the rights and responsibilities for being a member of the class and school. In addition to this, they will learn how to listen to other people and contribute their own ideas about rewards and consequences. They will also explore the choices they make and understand the consequences.
Geography	Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?: This half term the pupils will be recognising the features of living in a hot or a cold place. During this unit, they will be recapping the seven continents on a world map as well as using atlases to locate the Equator, the North and the South Poles, as well as some hot and cold climates on a world map. Finally, the pupils will compare UK and Kenya, investigate the weather conditions, and will formulate a conclusion whether they would like live in a hot or cold place.
D&T	Moving Mechanisms: The pupils will explore levers, linkages and pivots through existing products. They will learn to create a range of linkages and pivots. Using this knowledge, they will design, construct and assemble a moving monster, which will include a range of linkages.
P.E.	Fundamentals: This half term we will be developing their skills of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. The pupils will be given opportunities to work with a range of different equipment as well as work collaboratively with others. Team Building: The pupils will also be developing their teamwork skills as well as their communication and problem solving. 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.
Music	Hands, Feet and Heart: The pupils will learn a South African song called Hands, Feet, Heart. During this topic, they will be introduced to an integrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc) and singing are all linked. As well as learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song, children will listen and appraise different styles of South African music.
Homework	Reading: Your child should read aloud to an adult at home at least 5 times a week. Please record this in their reading record 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 Ladder on our class reading display. Reading Records 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.

Special dates and events this half-term:

- Monday 15th September- Meet the Teacher meeting (9:00 am in the Year 2 classroom).
- Friday 3rd October- INSET Day (School closed for pupils)
- Monday 6th October- Year 2 GOAL Day
- Wednesday 15th October- Parent Teacher Consultations 8am-10:30am
- Wednesday 15th October- Parent Teacher Consultations 4pm - 7pm
- Wednesday 22nd October- Year 2 Class Assembly
- Thursday 23rd October- Flu immunisation
- Friday 24th October- Harvest Assembly
- Friday 24th October- End of half term

- Monday 3rd November- INSET Day
- Tuesday 4th November- First day of Autumn 2