

Year 2 Newsletter

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you have all had a wonderful break and are as excited as we are about the start of a new term. We have lots to look forward to as we embark on our 'Explore' project and our new 'Big Question' – What does it mean to belong?

New Project – WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG?

At Abbey Gates we want everyone who is a part of our school community to feel a strong sense of belonging. Last term, we explored the word 'community' through our sticky question 'What community is the most important to you?'. Through this term's geography project, we will build on this learning and explore the concept of what it means to belong, both to a place and to a community. Through our 'explorer of the week' challenges, children will explore human and physical features of different places and name the continents and oceans of the world. We will practise reading maps (before creating our own!) and learn about compass directions.



After half term we will extend our learning and compare where we live to life in a Non-European country. We will explore the life of Floella Benjamin through her book 'Coming to England'. Children will find out about her life both in Trinidad and in the UK and explore, through our Big Question, how it is possible to 'belong' to more than one place.

More information can be found in this term's project placemat which can be found on the [Year 2 class page](#) on the school website.

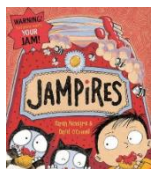
English

To support our project, we will begin the term by immersing ourselves in the story 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers.

One day a boy finds an aeroplane in his cupboard. Up, up, up and away he flies, high into the sky. Whizzing past clouds, stars and planets until suddenly, he runs out of petrol. Miles from Earth, the boy crashes onto the moon and waits.



Children will explore the story before innovating the narrative to write a story of their own. And of course, we will be helping our friendly alien to find out lots about our local area through our Geography work!



Later in the term, we will link instruction writing to our DT project (linked to food!) using the book Jampires!

A delightful, whimsical, JAM-tastic adventure! The jam has been sucked out of Sam's doughnuts! Who are the culprits? Sam sets a trap to catch the jam thieves and gets a surprise! It's the JAMPIRES: friendly little creatures whose love of jam and sweet things gets them into trouble!

We ask for contributions for our cooking resources fund through the enrichment tab on School Gateway.

Phonics and Spellings

This term, we will continue our focus on basic skills, letter formation, phonics, spelling and handwriting.

Along with this letter, please find attached the phonics/spelling rules that Year 2 will be focussing on this half term and some examples of words that you could use to support your children at home. These are not to be learnt for a spelling test as such, but to embed our learning in class. Please encourage your children to practise these words at home. If they need an extra challenge, they could practise writing them in a sentence or hunt for other words with the same spelling rule – they could even set up their own spelling journal to use at home!

You can also continue to support your child by practising the KS1 National Curriculum spellings. All of these are [available here on the Y2 Class Page](#).

Reading

Please continue to read with your child regularly and log their reading in their home-school diary (at least 3 times per week – see the homework expectations below). Children should continue to have their reading folders in school daily so that we are able to read with them and change books throughout the week. Just a reminder that your child's reading book will be carefully selected to ensure they can read at least 90% accurately without adult support. The aim is for children to read fluently and confidently and build up their ability to read words by sight. Please encourage your child to re-read texts to build confidence, fluency, comprehension and sight reading.

This term we will resume our visits to Ravenshead library – watch out for dates coming soon and please let us know if you are able to support with this.

Maths

In maths, we will continue to follow the White Rose programme of work. This term we will be focussing on:

- Addition and Subtraction
- Shape
- Money
- Multiplication and Division

By the end of Year 2, children should know their 2s, 5s and 10s confidently and be able to count in 3s. Please support your child to practise these at home. Your child now has access to both 'Numbots' and 'Times Table Rock Stars' which can also be used to support their number fluency. If you do not have your child's login details, please get in touch.

Children should also know how to read the time on an analogue clock *to the nearest 5 minutes* before they reach Year 3. Can you help by quizzing your child on how to tell the time at home? Perhaps you could let them know what time lunch will be or when you will be leaving the house for a day out and asking them to tell you when it's time to go. Reading the time 'little and often' really helps to embed this skill and we would be very grateful for your support.

Other Curriculum Areas

- Science: Animals (including humans)
- DT: Cooking and Nutrition – A Balanced Diet
- Computing: Data and Information - Questioning
- PE: Agility and balance, Team games, Throwing and catching, Football
- RE: What do Jewish people believe about God, creation, humanity, and the natural world?
- Music: Playing in an orchestra
- Art: Painting and Mixed Media – Life in Colour

RSHE – Talking Points and Zones of Regulation

We will continue to explore RSHE through the Talking Points - a list of which you can find on the RSHE page on our school website. [Click here to see the Y2 texts](#). Examples of questions that will be covered this term include 'How do I make you feel?', 'Is it right or wrong?', 'How can I compromise?' and 'What are rights and responsibilities?'.

We will also continue to use the language of the 'Zones of Regulation' to support children in adopting a shared language for their emotions and to continue to teach them the skills of self-regulation.

PE

PE will continue to take place on Mondays (with Miss Muzeja) and Wednesdays (with Mr Martin) and children should come into school in their PE kits on these days. Please also ensure that long hair is tied back on these days and that children are not wearing any jewellery (especially earrings).



Homework

Here is a reminder of the homework expectations for your child each week:

- Reading – 10-20 mins, at least 3x per week (research shows that little and often is better!)
- Spellings – Practise the spelling lists each week - [available here on the Y2 Class Page](#).
- Sticky questions – to be discussed every Monday in class
- Numbots and/or TT Rock Stars – log on at least once per week. Both of these websites use the same login details.
- Aim High Homework – this will be set just before the half term break.

Home Time

Just a reminder to please let us know if you have made any different arrangements for your child to be collected at the end of the day (e.g. a different parent or after-school club). In order to ensure the children's safety, we will not let children leave unless we have been notified by parents beforehand. You can do this by emailing or calling the school office or by letting us know at the start of the school day.

CAN YOU HELP?

Are you able to help with any of the topics above? Do you have any skills/talents linked to the things we are learning? Perhaps you know somebody who has a geography-based career who might be able to come in and inspire us...please let us know! We would love to invite you in.

We look forward to another very exciting term with Year 2 and discussing your child's progress at the upcoming parent-teacher learning reviews. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

YEAR 2 TEAM