



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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YEAR 2 TERMLY CURRICULUM LETTER - AUTUMN 2020

Dear Parents,

We have already made a good start to our studies in Year 2 and we feel sure that you will make every effort to assist and encourage your child as this term progresses. As you know, Year 2 is an important year, marking the end of the Key Stage 1.

Following the introduction of the new National Curriculum for Years 1-6 in 2014 and new assessment and reporting arrangements the Abbey School staff will assess the children's level of attainment at the end of each term (December, March, May) in Years 1-6 using the phrases:

- **Securely within Age Related Expectations (ARE)**
- **Broadly within ARE**
- **Below ARE**
- **Above ARE**

Formal 10-minute parent/teacher consultations take place in the middle of the Autumn and Spring Terms (October and February). This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, behaviour, social interactions and English and maths strengths and areas for development. An annual report to parents is produced in the summer term.

Key Stage 1 National Curriculum Assessments

Year 2 children will take the compulsory **Key Stage 1 National Curriculum Assessments** and all Year 2 children in the UK will sit the same tests from Tuesday 4th May 2021. Year 2 parents will receive the results from these assessments in the annual school reports which will be sent home with children in July 2021. The results will be both Teacher Assessments and Test Results.

The phrase used to describe those children working at age related expectations in the end of key Stage 1 assessments is:

'Working at the expected standard'

In the reading and maths tests and in the teacher's Teacher Assessments for writing, children who are working above the 'expected standard' could be assessed as **'Working at greater depth within the expected standard'**.





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Children who have not quite reached the 'expected standard' will be assessed as '**Working towards the expected standard**'.

Children who are working below the 'expected standard' will be assessed as '**Foundations of the expected standard**'.

Phonics Screening Check

Due to the cancellation of the **Phonics Screening Check** in June 2020 for Year 1 children, this will now be administered during the second half of the Autumn term of Year 2. To prepare the children there will be a stronger emphasis on phonics this term. Results will be shared with parents by the end of the Autumn term. If students do not meet the required pass rate they will re-sit in June 2021.

Curriculum Meeting

We are unable to host our annual Year 2 Curriculum Meeting, due to Covid restrictions. Therefore, we will be preparing and sending home a useful PowerPoint that will help you to learn more about our learning in Year 2.

An overview of the vocabulary for the Autumn Term and the first 200 High Frequency words have been uploaded to ClassDojo. This will be followed by teaching strategies for Maths to assist with home learning. Any questions arising from this please contact us via the school office admin@abbey.herts.sch.uk rather than via Class Dojo.

SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

For your information we have outlined below some of the topics that will be covered this term in Year 2.

English

- Fiction – Traditional Tales and variations of these
- Non-Fiction – Explanation writing
- Poetry – Pattern, rhyme and rhythm

Mathematics

- Number and Place value
- Problem solving, reasoning and algebra
- Mental addition and subtraction
- Add three numbers by putting the largest first
- Addition and subtraction facts to 9
- Use units of time (hours, days, months, years)
- Doubles and halves to at least 15
- Money
- Odd and even numbers

As **Scientists** we will be exploring **Materials and Living Things**. The children will name, identify and hunt for everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, rubber, brick, rock, paper, fabric and card. They will list properties of different materials such as hardness, strength, flexibility and transparency.

They will learn that the properties of materials are important to the object they are made from. They will identify suitable and unsuitable materials for different objects and will be able to explain why. Working scientifically, they will classify materials sorting them into groups in a variety of ways. They will use reference materials to find out some fascinating facts. They will



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compare the strength and absorbency of different types of materials. They will record the results of an investigation and will apply the findings from their investigations to design a product.

After half term the children will make comparisons between things that are alive, things that are not alive, and things that were once alive. They will sort and compare animals, plants and non-living things and will create a list of features of living things. Children will notice that living things have offspring which often resemble their parents and that they themselves grow into adults which reproduce. Children will order the stages of growth of humans from birth to old age. They will design an information board for an exhibit comparing living, not living and never living things. They will observe, ask questions and use their observations and ideas to suggest answers to their questions.

Other areas of study will include:

As **Historians**, the children will be presented with the question: **Why is the story of my locality important?** The children will be given the opportunity to reason, describe and research significant events in their locality. They will need to explain their findings and suggest reasons why events happened.

As **Geographers**, the children will be presented with the question: **Why don't penguins need to fly?** Through the application and analysis of a wide range of geographical skills and resources the children will be encouraged to identify, recognise and describe key geographical features of the Antarctic environment. They will be encouraged to explain why Antarctica is a desert despite being the coldest place on Earth and describe ways that the Arctic region and North Pole is similar to and different from Antarctica and the South Pole and offer reasons for such differences.

As **Artists** we will:

- Look at shape, colour, colour-mixing and shades.
- Experiment with different grades of art pencils to make different marks.
- Work in the style of an artist.
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As **musicians** this term the children will focus on recognising and responding to steady beats and rhythmic patterns through topics on 'Toys' and 'Our bodies'.

The children will learn a range of hymns and songs through the term including songs for Harvest, Remembrance, Advent and Christmas.

In **RE** we will be thinking about how we should care for the Earth and why it matters. After half term we will be studying the religion Islam. We will look at what Muslims believe and how they live.

In **PE** we will be outdoors practising our athletics skills and taking part in 'outdoor adventures' including orienteering.

In **PSHE & Citizenship** we will follow a specially designed curriculum for this 'Post Lockdown' time covering managing worries and concerns, reconnecting with friends and feeling safe and happy. Next half term we will start our PSHE Jigsaw scheme with 'Celebrating Difference'.



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What do we expect of you, the parents?

You can help and support us by:

- Monitoring homework – ensuring homework has been completed and handed in on time
- Reading through your child's homework with them
- Listening to your child read each evening
- Helping your child practise their spellings – sent out on ClassDojo each Tuesday
- Assisting your child with research and other studies as appropriate
- Ensuring your child has appropriate named PE kit sent into school each Monday and well-fitting plimsolls

Your child should have his/her PE kit in school at all times. It is a statutory requirement that all children must participate in PE lessons. PE in Year 2 takes place on Monday, Thursday and Friday afternoon. If your child does not have their kit in on a PE day then they will have to participate in the session in their school uniform and school shoes. If your child has a genuine medical reason why they cannot take part in a games session, then a note must be provided.

Homework:

- Spelling lists will be set every Tuesday on Class Dojo, the children will have a week to learn and practise their lists before using the words in a small dictation.
- Reading books will be issued on a Monday, and must be returned on a Friday.
- All children will be issued a Timestable Rockstar account – If your child is ready for times table practise these will be set for them.
- In addition to this we will send small activities home when we feel some consolidation in an area of learning would benefit or research required.
- We suggest homework should take no more than 10 minutes per evening and be done with care and concentration.

Who will be working with your children this term?

Mrs Gaines will be working with Year 2 on a Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Easby will be working in Year 2 on Wednesday-Friday. We are very lucky to have Mrs Percy (Teaching Assistant) working with the class every day. In addition, we have a qualified sports coach, Mr Morgan, who will be working with Year 2 on Friday as part of the outdoor games curriculum. Mrs Baker will be delivering group music teaching as part of the music curriculum on a weekly basis every Monday.

If, at any stage, you have questions or require further clarification relating to any aspect of your child's school activities, in the first instance please email the school to arrange to speak/email with one of the teachers. We have appreciated your support and assistance so far in this new academic year and we are confident that you will continue to work with us to ensure that your child has a happy and successful term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Easby and Mrs Gaines
Year 2 Teachers