



YEAR 2 NEWSLETTER - Autumn term 2025

We are pleased to welcome children and families to Year 2. We hope you had a wonderful summer holiday and that your child has settled in well.

At the start of each term, we will send out a newsletter to keep you informed about Year 2 events and to share helpful tips on how you can support your child at home.

Together, we can help your children become successful, confident, and independent learners.

This term our theme is:



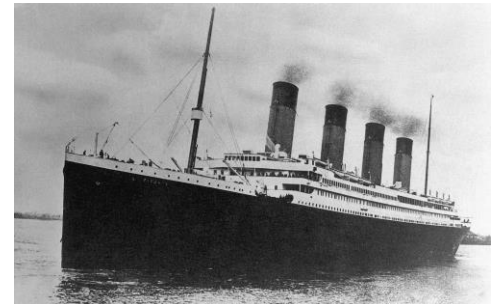
In the first half of this term, our overarching big question is: **"Could a fairy tale be set in Bishopstoke?"**

We'll be focusing on our school grounds and the local area. To kick start our theme, we went on an adventure to the river behind Oakgrove Road during one of our Geography lessons. We've also begun exploring the school grounds during our Science and outdoor learning sessions.

In these lessons, we will continue to use our Geography vocabulary 'human' and 'physical' to describe features of our local area. We'll also be learning about the countries within the UK, as well as some familiar landmarks and cities. Later in the term, we'll zoom out to explore the wider world using globes and atlases, with a particular focus on oceans and seas.

After half term, our big question will be: **"Is the sea cruel or kind?"**

We'll be learning all about *The Titanic*. This exciting theme will begin with a trip to the Sea City Museum on **Monday 10th November**, where we'll take part in workshops and discover fascinating facts about the Titanic (a separate letter with full details will follow soon).



Back in school, we'll become scientists — investigating which materials would have kept passengers warm, and which materials would have helped soak up water on the ship's deck. We'll learn about why the Titanic sank and carry out an experiment to melt different sizes of ice — could Captain Smith have melted the iceberg? We'll also find out more about Captain Smith and discuss whether we believe he was a hero.

To round off our History learning, we'll be holding a **Titanic Dress-Up Day on Tuesday 25th November**. Children will be invited to come to school dressed as a passenger aboard the Titanic – more information will be shared closer to the date.

All of our English texts this term are linked to our big questions, ranging from creative twists on traditional tales set in the woods to beautifully illustrated stories about sea creatures.

We'll end the term by exploring what we think angels are – and, of course, by performing our **Christmas Nativity!**

Performances will take place on:

- **Monday 15th December** - for all **Woodpecker** parents and half of **Squirrels** (children with first names starting **A-I**)
- **Tuesday 16th December** - for all **Badger** parents and the other half of **Squirrels** (children with first names starting **J-Z**)

ROUTINES IN YEAR 2

PE days and outdoor learning:- Thursdays and Fridays

This year, we have decided that KS1 children should come to school **dressed in their PE kit on PE days**, rather than bringing a separate PE bag. Please ensure that PE kits are **appropriate for the weather**, as children will still be spending time outside during playtimes, lunchtimes, and outdoor learning sessions.

To keep things simple for now, children will also take part in outdoor learning **wearing their PE kits and waterproofs**. We have plenty of spare school uniform available if a child gets particularly wet or muddy and needs to change. As the weather begins to warm up later in the year, we will **review this approach**. At that time, we may ask children to wear long sleeves and trousers for outdoor learning, especially if we are visiting areas where ticks may be present.



Water Bottles

It is important that your child bring a clear, plastic bottle of **water** to school **EVERY DAY** in a clear plastic bottle. The children can re-fill their bottles during the day as necessary.

Slippers, Wellies and waterproofs



As part of our school uniform, **slippers are to be worn indoors** for the majority of each day. We ask that children wear **hard-soled slippers**, as they provide appropriate support and are the safest option for moving around the classroom, especially when using the stairs. Slippers will stay in school each day.



We also ask that **wellies and waterproofs remain in school**, where possible, so children are always ready for outdoor learning.



Please make sure **all items are clearly named**.



Arbor

Please could you check on Arbor that your emergency contact details, address, and medical details are all up to date?

Stop and stay reads - We are opening up our classrooms at 3.00pm every Monday to allow you the opportunity to read with your child in school. This will also count as one of your child's reads for the week! The day for Stop and Stay reads will change termly.

HOMEWORK IN YEAR 2

Your child will bring home various things in their book bags to do at home over the year.

Reading - Just like in Year R and Year 1, all children will have a **reading book in their book bag** that is carefully matched to their reading level. This book is suitable for your child to read and share with you, helping them to practise and develop their reading skills. Some children may also have a **phonics book to practise on Bug Club**.



Once your child has finished reading their book, they can change it **independently in school**. Please do remind your child to do this when needed.

In addition to their reading book, your child will also bring home a **library book**. This may be more challenging to read independently, but it is perfect for enjoying and sharing together. It also offers opportunities to explore other reading skills, such as identifying headings, using an index, or discussing interesting vocabulary.

As a school, we are asking parents to try to hear their child read **at least 4 times a week**. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their **Reading Agreement**. We understand how busy life can be, but just **5-10 minutes a day** really can make a huge difference, and we're already seeing the impact!

Please remember to **tick and initial in your child's reading diary** each time they read to you. Your child can earn up to **4 Dojo points each week**.



The expectation is that children read 4 times a week at home with an adult.

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Parent's or carer's initials							
Weekly learning objective:							
Date: Comments:							

Each diary page has **three comment boxes**. These are available if you or we would like to make a more detailed note about your child's reading, but **please don't feel pressured to fill them in** - we'd much rather your time is spent enjoying reading with your child!

We will **collect in reading diaries weekly** to keep track of how often children are reading at home.

Finally, don't forget the importance and pleasure of **reading a bedtime story to your child**. While bedtime might not be the best time for your child to read to you, it's a lovely time to wind down and share a story. Listening to you read helps your child develop **expression, fluency, vocabulary**, and — most importantly — a love of reading.

Spelling practise

Spellings will be sent home every **Monday**, along with a sheet for your child to **practise their words throughout the week**.

Once your child has completed the sheet, you can either **upload a photo to their Dojo portfolio** or **send the sheet back into school**. One **Home Learning Dojo** point will be awarded for completed spelling practice.

Homework – 4th September – Look, say, cover, write, check
Look, say, cover, write, check a number of spelling words, when children look at a word, say it aloud 4 times, cover it up with a piece of paper or their hand and then write the spelling next to the original word. Please use children's writing practice paper for 5 days. Send a photo of this completed homework to Dojo and we will give you 5 Dojo points. A Dojo point for neat presentation – one word written neatly in each box, with children using their best handwriting.

	1 st attempt	2 nd attempt	3 rd attempt	4 th attempt	5 th attempt
oh	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
their	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
people	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
phonics	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
phone	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
alphabet	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
where	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
which	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
when	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
while	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Both **spellings and handwriting** will be practised at school and at home. At this stage, **over-learning** is really important, as it helps reinforce correct spelling patterns and prevents bad habits from forming.

As we all know, the English language can be tricky — so regular, repeated practice makes a big difference!

Homework - Finding the Right Balance

We recommend finding a **quiet space** for your child to complete homework, ideally away from siblings and distractions. Try to choose a time that fits well into your **family routine**, and where possible, keep it consistent each day. This really helps build good habits.

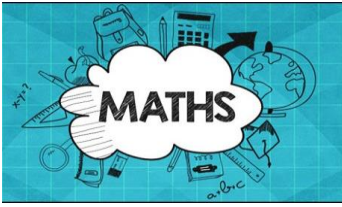
Children are often tired by bedtime, so reading or homework may be more effective **earlier in the evening** or after a snack and short break from school.

We fully appreciate that time outside of school is precious and should include **play, hobbies, and family time**, all of which are vital for your child's development and wellbeing. So please stick to a time limit and don't worry about doing too much.

For Year 2, we recommend spending around **10-15 minutes per night** on homework. This could look like:

- **5 minutes practising spellings**
- **5-10 minutes reading to an adult**

Little and often really does make a big difference. Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home!



This term we are consolidating our understanding of **numbers and place value, as well as addition and subtraction.**

Below are some quick and easy ways you can help your child when out and about, in the car or at home on a rainy weekend:

- ✓ Recalling number pairs and doubles to 10 and 20 quickly
- ✓ Reading door numbers and asking about how many tens and ones are in each door number, whether they are odd or even numbers, and/or if the number is in the 2, 5 or 10 times table.
- ✓ Measuring lengths using centimetres, using grams when weighing ingredients to cook and telling the time to o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to.
- ✓ Playing games such as snakes and ladders (counting forwards and backwards!), card games such as top trumps, darts to add the scores or other board games, particularly Orchard games which use money or telling the time.
 - ✓ Counting forwards and backwards in 1s, 2s, 5, and 10s from any given number.

Thank you for reading. We hope this newsletter has been useful and we look forward to working with you this year. Any questions, please just ask us, we are always happy to help!

The Year 2 Team

Important dates for your diary

- Stop and stay read 3pm every Monday
- Monday 10th November - trip to Sea City Museum
- Tuesday 25th November - Titanic day: come dressed as a passenger or part of the crew on board the Titanic
- Year 2 Nativity:
 - Monday 15th December - for all Woodpecker parents and half of Squirrels (children with first names starting A-I)
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