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| In Year 2, we are learning… | | | |
| Literacy  Look Up! (Paperback)  This term we will be focusing on two main texts, **Look Up!** And **The Great Fire of London.**  We will begin the year with developing our vocabulary to describe; punctuate sentences using ! and ? as well as extending our sentences using *and*. We will be writing diary entries in the role of different characters and checking that we are writing correctly in the past tense.  In the second half term we will be learning to use the conjunctions *or* and *but*, using commas to separate items in a list as well as using *-ly* to turn adjectives in to adverbs. Our writing outcome will be to write a fact file about London and the events of the fire.  We will have daily spelling and handwriting lessons. We teach spelling patterns from the National Curriculum and correct letter formation, focusing on length, height and position of each letter. | History  The children will be learning about The Great Fire of London. We will learn about how and where it started; what life was like in London; changes in the fire brigade and how the fire spread. The children will be learning new skills and vocabulary, learning how to investigate sources and become historians. | Science  This term our focus will be **Materials**. With Miss Connah, the children will be identifying and comparing the suitability of a variety of everyday materials including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard. They will find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching. | Computing  Our first computing topic is **IT around us**. We will be hunting the school to spot technology and thinking about what we use at home and in school. We will also focus on using IT safely. Our second topic is **photography** where we will be learning what makes a good photograph, taking our own pictures and editing our images. |
| Geography  We will be learning about the 7 continents and the 5 main oceans & seas of our World. The children will learn important facts about the different continents and where they are in the world, as well as being able to place the equator on a world map. | RE  Our first RE topic this year is Judaism. The children will be learning about what Jewish people believe about God and how Jewish people live their faith through practices and celebrations. | Music  The children will explore music from other cultures. All children will have the opportunity to explore different musical instruments and the use of their own voice.  We will also be putting on a Christmas production, in which the children will all take part in singing. |
| PE  We will begin by improving our **fundamental movement skills**. The children will be practising skipping, jumping, dribbling a ball, throwing, catching and aiming. After the half term, we will be **dancing** and playing **invasion games** with a focus on throwing accuracy. | Art  With Miss Connah, the children will be developing and improving their drawing techniques. They will explore light and darkness through shading; give their opinions on pieces of artwork; use viewfinders to focus on areas and show patterns and textures in their drawing. | Maths  We will start with our **Place Value** topic and learn about partitioning numbers to 100 in to tens and ones. We will use our maths resources and place value charts to help us with this. Once we master this, we will start counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.  We will then cover **Addition & Subtraction** and learn how to add and subtract 2-digit numbers across ten, using the column addition & subtraction method. Once we have mastered this, we will move on to missing number addition and subtraction questions and adding 3 numbers together!  With Miss Connah, the children will learn all about **Shape**. They will be able to recognise 2D and 3D shapes, count their sides, vertices and edges. Miss Connah will introduce symmetry and the children will develop their understanding of lines of symmetry. |
| Reading  Children will continue to have phonics lessons daily. We will continue teaching and recapping sounds as well as developing reading speed. Once children are reading fluently and with good pace, they will move to a comprehension group. Here, children will learn how to find and retrieve information from a text, sequence the events of a story and develop their inference skills. | Wellbeing/ PSHE  Our ‘Jigsaw’ lessons begin with **Being me in my world**, where the children will explore their hopes and dreams for the year, their rights and responsibilities and create their class charter.  Then, we will move on to our **Celebrating difference** topic. We will understand the differences between boys and girls whilst celebrating our own individual differences. | DT  With Miss Connah, the children will be learning about **Farm to Fork**. Where our food comes from and what happens to it before we buy it at the supermarket. We will be learning all about Harvest and creating a soup or a stew with our Harvest vegetables. |

Welcome to Year 2!

Each year in school offers new challenges, learning opportunities, special memories and time for each child to develop as an individual. We like to spend the first couple of weeks getting to know each child, so we know how to fully support them during the school year. As teachers, our job is to provide memorable experiences, a love of learning and to challenge children to achieve their full potential. Year 2 is a year where the children are encouraged to become more independent, developing responsibility for their attitude towards work and their behaviour. Some days will be amazing, and some may be a little harder. If your child has had an issue in school that needs discussing with you, or an area of learning they need additional support with, a member of our team may catch you for a quick chat at the end of the day or email you for a catch up.

When arriving at school, the children are dropped off on the KS2 playground and line up ready for a member of the Year 2 team to open the door (up the steps by the Brownie gate). The children have been shown where this is and were excited about entering on the KS2 playground! Children come in to school by themselves and staff will be inside to help them with anything they need. If you need to pass on a message, the member of staff on the playground or by the gate will pass this information on. Sometimes it is tricky to chat at the beginning of the day, but the end of the day is much easier. Alternatively, you can use the Year 2 email address ([year2@mickletrafford.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year2@mickletrafford.cheshire.sch.uk)). This will be checked regularly and emails will be replied to during working hours. We are all here to support your children and understand that they all need help in different areas e.g. organisation, toileting, friendships, reminders to drink water or encouragement to eat a little more at lunch time. The best way to support all children is by home and school working together as a team.

We have an action-packed term planned for the children and above are some details about our learning topics we will be focusing on. We are extremely lucky to have an experienced team of adults working together in Year 2 this year. Mrs McCallum and Miss Connah will be your child’s class teachers. Mrs Prince and Miss Monaghan will support our class.

Reading, Phonics & Spellings

During our first week back, we may reassess your child in phonics and group them, ready to start our phonics lessons as soon as possible. In Year 2, some children may ‘complete’ RWI Phonics, which means they recognise and know each sound and read fluently, with good pace. Following phonics, children join a RWI comprehension group, where they focus on comprehension skills such as explaining a text, identifying new vocabulary, summarising texts, making predictions and finding answers to questions based on what they’ve read. Your child will be sent home weekly with a reading book. This will either be RWI books or an early chapter book (comprehension group). We recommend that children read each evening at home and encourage comments parents, grandparents or even the children themselves, in their reading diaries. **Please ensure reading diaries are in your child’s bag every Thursday. We will collect them in and change books, ready to be handed out on Fridays.**

In Year 2, we have daily spelling lessons. These are also part of the Read, Write, Inc. scheme and will support the children in learning and remembering the Year 2 spelling patterns, taken from the National Curriculum. Children will not have weekly spelling ‘tests’. Instead, we will complete speed spells in lesson time, focusing on the spelling pattern taught the week before. Spelling patterns will be sent home with homework, as and when we learn a new spelling pattern.

Maths

During our maths lessons, we will continue to build upon number strategies taught in Year 1 (e.g. number bonds), as well as beginning to learn our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We also focus on addition and subtraction, shape, multiplication and division, telling the time (quarter past, quarter to and in intervals of 5 minutes) and recognising and using difference values of coin. Please support your child with telling the time and recognising and counting money at home.

Uniform and PE

Please send your child’s **named** PE kit in for their PE sessions. Please ensure long hair is tied up for school and children are not wearing or bringing jewellery to school. Our P.E days are **Tuesday & Wednesday.**

Homework

Homework will be set on Friday and will be expected to be returned by the following Thursday. This year, homework will mostly be from the White Rose Maths homework books. School Spider messages will be sent informing you of which pages to complete. Please don’t race ahead, as the homework will follow our learning journey. Every so often, linking to our other learning topics, the children may be asked to complete a more creative project.

**Please support our continued drive to ensure the children are writing neatly, in pencil and that any colouring is done in pencil, rather than felt tips.**

Lunches and water bottles

We would really appreciate it if you could discuss meal options with your child prior to the school day, so they are aware of what they are having for their lunch. This will allow them to become more independent and ensure lunch times run as smoothly as possible. Fresh water bottles are needed in school each day and the children will keep these on their desks to encourage them to stay hydrated and drink regularly. Please could water bottles be filled with water only, there is access for the children to refill their bottles in the classroom independently.

We hope that you are looking forward to this year as much as we are.

If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Mrs McCallum & Miss Connah