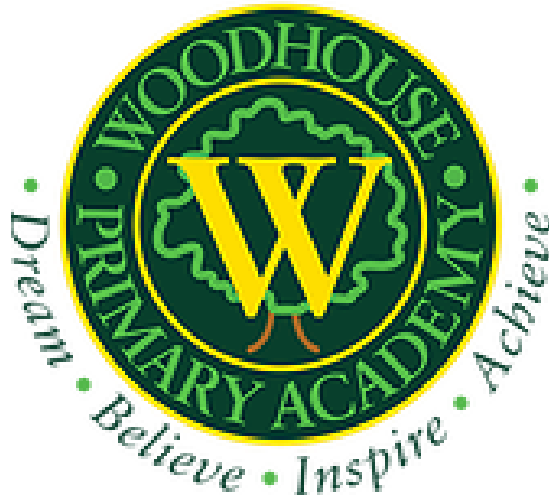


Curriculum Newsletter



Year 2

Spring Term

Important Information:

PE – Wednesday and Thursday

Trip to ThinkTank – 15th March

Parents' Evenings – 2nd March and 7th March

Class Assemblies – 2F 6th February 2W 6th March

Welcome to our spring curriculum newsletter! This will let you know what learning will be taking place over the following few weeks. This will help you to participate in your child's learning journey, as we will also give you ideas for activities that can extend their learning and help them progress further.

If you have any questions about what your child is learning, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the year 2 team who will be happy to help you!

Maths

This half term in Maths we will be exploring money, multiplication, division and measuring. It is important that children have a secure understanding of numbers and their physical representations in order for them to manipulate these numbers through calculating and problem solving.

We will be looking at

- Counting money in pounds and pence, calculating amounts, making amounts in different ways and finding change
- Using arrays to represent and understand multiplication
- Exploring the relationship between multiplication and division
- Making groups of 2s, 5s and 10s
- Learning the 2, 5 and 10 times tables
- Measuring height, weight, length, capacity and mass using the correct units and equipment

You can help your child progress by:

- Counting objects at home in groups of twos, fives and tens
- Looking at money and identifying the value of coins, playing shops and calculating change
- Making groups of 2s 5s or 10s with toys, lego, pasta etc
- Cooking and baking with you child, measuring out ingredients
- Adapting recipes to double or halve the ingredients, calculating how much will be needed.
- Measuring items around the house and putting them in order
- ***It will also greatly benefit all children to practice their times tables as often as possible. By the end of year 2, children should know their 2, 5 and 10 times tables, along with their corresponding division facts. Children will all receive log ins for Times table Rockstars and Purple Mash, which they can use from any computer with internet access. You could also create quizzes, songs or games to help them learn these at home.***

Reading

Reading is a key aspect of children's learning and must be completed regularly. At Woodhouse we encourage reading for pleasure and reading a wide range of texts.

You can support your child by reading with them at least five times per week, even if it is just for five minutes. This can be their school reading book, or something they enjoy reading or sharing at home.

Along with learning the mechanics of reading, it is also important that children develop their understanding of what they read. The more you sit with your child and discuss what they have read, the more you will develop this skill.

. This term we will be working with texts the children can read with ease to develop this fluency and level of understanding. Homework for reading this term will sometimes include SATs style questions so that you can get an understanding of the kinds of questions they will be expected to answer independently in May.

Please ask a member of the team if you have any questions about this.

Spelling and Phonics

We are now in the second term of our new phonics scheme and have ironed out many of the teething problems that come with a new scheme. I know that some parents have shared concerns about the reading books not being challenging enough for the children as they can easily decode them. Please be aware that this is an important aspect of the scheme, as if children are being too challenged to decode, their cognitive load is taken up by this, leaving no room for them to understand what they have read. Comprehension is a huge assessment element in year two, so we must move the children more towards reading a sentence or words on sight. Please feel free to speak to a member of the team if you would like this explaining in more detail.

Please continue to practise spelling the year 2 common exception words, including using them in sentences, we are happy to give you another copy of these if you need one, just let us know.

Writing

This half term we will look at various texts:

Katie in London – James Mayhew
Man on the Moon – Simon Bartram

We will also be looking at information texts on London, Birmingham and Space.

A range of songs and poetry by various authors

These texts fit within our topic this term, which is "Birmingham and Beyond".

The children will be:

- Exploring the themes of the books
- Understanding the features of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Developing their sentence writing
- Using a wider range of punctuation (capital letters, full stops, commas, exclamation marks and question marks)
- Developing handwriting and beginning to join
- Planning and drafting descriptive, narrative and informational writing

You can help your child progress by:

- Reading the texts at home and talking about them
- Looking up the meaning of words they are not sure of
- Let them write about subjects that interest them at home
- Write sentences for them without punctuation, ask them to add it
- Give them activities that will help with their fine motor skills; colouring, building with Lego, using chopsticks to pick up small items.

Topic

This term we are exploring the theme of "Birmingham and Beyond". The focus will move from Birmingham and the United Kingdom to the world we live in and then our planet and solar system

The children will explore:

- What a landmark is and why they are important
- Countries and continents and where they are on a map
- How we might have to travel to different places around the world (land, air sea)
- The physical features of different areas of our planet
- How cultures, climate and geography can differ around the world

We will also touch on our planet as part of the solar system and how it differs from the other planets. We will visit the planetarium at the ThinkTank in Birmingham to see what our planet looks like from space, and how our moon and planets look from different perspectives. The children will also be able to explore the history of vehicles and engineering in Birmingham and explore their "MiniBrum".

You can help your child progress by:

- Visit the city on a bus. Travel around and spot different landmarks together. You could also take photos and share these on class dojo
- Look at globes, atlases and maps of the world. Talk about where different continents and countries are.
- Talk about any places outside of Birmingham you may have visited. How was it different? How was it the same?

