



Year 2 Booklet

Welcome to Year 2 at Prior Heath

*The purpose of this booklet is to provide you
with information so that you feel able
to support your child at home.*

*We believe that we are in a partnership with you
and that your child will learn best
when they know that we are working together.*

The National Curriculum

All Year 2 children will study the following National Curriculum subjects:

English

Mathematics

Science

Computing

History

Geography

Design Technology

Art

Music

Physical Education

Religious Education

Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education

English

Reading

The children are encouraged to develop reading at their own level, and we introduce them to a wide variety of literature and aim to increase their enjoyment, independence, accuracy and understanding.

They continue to use a wide variety of books and we listen to them regularly in guided group sessions to monitor their progress. They may also read to other adults in school.



How you can help

1. The children will still bring books home from the reading boxes. In Year 2, the children are responsible for changing their books at lunchtime, not at the start of the day. It is vital that all children, regardless of their book level, read aloud frequently at home either to develop their fluency or comprehension. Please encourage them to read to you ***each night***. This will help them to improve their reading skills and this regular habit is a good preparation for the homework that they will be given in their junior schools. **Please record in the reading records when your child reads to you as we need to keep a record of each child's weekly reading.**
2. Spend time discussing the story and its meaning. During reading, stop at a convenient point in the story and ask your child to tell you what has happened and predict what might happen next. Please help them to understand why events have happened. There is a guide to questions linked to reading comprehension on the school's website under the Curriculum tab (in English).
3. Don't forget to look at the blue book box reading slips that are stuck into your child's reading record. These give the aspects of reading your child is focusing on so you can target them at home.
4. Remind your child to return their reading record to their book bag after reading at home so that it can also be used in school.

Writing

Various opportunities are given to encourage writing and, as children progress as writers, we introduce different skills. We develop the quality of content and use of language together with the technical aspects of writing.

How you can help

1. While you are reading with your child, draw attention to punctuation marks. Help them to 'feel' where full stops are placed and to notice capital letters, if they still find this a difficult skill.
2. Read good quality books to your child. This helps to develop your child's vocabulary and also models the development of sentence structure.
3. In Year 2, 'Write at Home' packs go home roughly once every half term, on a rolling programme. Please discuss ideas with your child and encourage them to take care with capital letters, full stops and presentation.

Handwriting

During the year, a joined cursive handwriting style will continue to be introduced and practised. Emphasis will be placed on regular size and correct formation of the letters. We aim for all children to be writing in a neat, joined legible style by the end of the year.



Spelling

As the children become confident writers, spelling is given greater emphasis. We continue to increase visual awareness of the sounds in words. Each week sounds and spelling patterns will be studied. For the common exception words, the children are encouraged to learn words by using the LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE, CHECK procedure. This is one of the best ways of building a visual memory and we try to ensure that this habit is formed and maintained. However, for the words using particular sounds please encourage your child to learn the sound and the words that use that sound. Please ensure your child completes their spellings and homework neatly in **pencil** so that they can correct mistakes. Home learning folders should be returned to school on Thursdays for marking and a spelling or dictation test will take place on Friday.

How you can help

1. Draw attention to patterns in words. This can be done through observation, discussion and games, e.g. Scrabble.
2. It would be helpful if you introduced your child to a simple dictionary and explained its layout and use.
3. Collect words with a sound, e.g. igh in light, sight, night, right or oa in coat, road, soap, cloak.
4. Ensure your child completes the spelling grids carefully and any associated homework that comes home on a Friday. They are then tested a week later.

Phonics

During Year 2 children will continue to have letters and sounds lessons in groups. The weekly spellings are usually linked to the sounds or spelling rules they are learning. The children who did not meet the threshold mark in the Year 1 phonics check or achieved a score close to the threshold will receive additional letters and sounds teaching in Year 2.

Speaking and Listening

Children are encouraged to express themselves clearly and listen carefully - a skill many find difficult. There are planned weekly speaking and listening activities as part of the English curriculum.

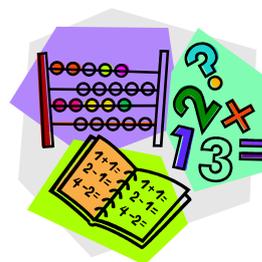
How you can help

1. Encourage your child to enter into conversations, expressing themselves clearly and listening with attention.
2. Help them to learn the skill of taking turns and waiting until others have finished.
3. Encourage your child to give **full explanations** including details.
4. Expand on verbal answers rather than just 'yes' or 'no'.
5. **Take part in the weekly "Talk Homework" which is detailed on the class weekly letter. The homework activities relate to the learning planned for the following week.**

Mathematics

Our aim is to ensure that children have a sound understanding of mathematics and are confident in this subject. Areas of study include:

- ❖ numbers and the number system
- ❖ solving problems
- ❖ calculations
- ❖ measures, shape and space



The teaching emphasis will be on mental calculation strategies and the use of these to solve problems. Children will use written recording alongside their oral work to support their developing mental maths skills.

How you can help

1. Encourage your child to apply skills in practical situations, e.g.
 - cooking - weighing out ingredients
 - shopping - handling money, checking change
 - practical measuring activities
 - simple games involving dice
2. Take the opportunity in spare moments to do mental calculations, e.g. count on/back in 2's, 5's and 10's bridging over 100, halves and doubles to 20, number bonds to 10 and 20.
3. Help your child to learn to tell the time – gimmicky watches are a distraction but a plain analogue watch may be worn in school.
4. Encourage your child to use the Maths Zone website. There is a link to this on the school's website under the Curriculum tab (in Maths).
5. Don't forget to look at the weekly letter which details the aspects taught that week and the strategies that are used in school.

Science

There are four areas in the science curriculum:

- ❖ living things and their habitats
- ❖ plants
- ❖ animals including humans
- ❖ uses of every day materials



We encourage the children to use the basic skills of science to find out about themselves and the world around them.

How you can help

1. The desire to find out is within all of us. You can help by letting your child make their own discoveries as much as possible.
2. Encourage your child to ask questions. This is an important way for children to learn about the world.

Computing

Children are encouraged to use the Internet and search engines as well as a wide range of software to access information and research topics. They are taught the importance of keeping safe while on the internet.



The children will continue to build upon their programming skills using bee bots and other programmable devices.

History

History involves an awareness of the past. We study similarities and differences between the past and present to develop children's awareness of chronology.

How you can help

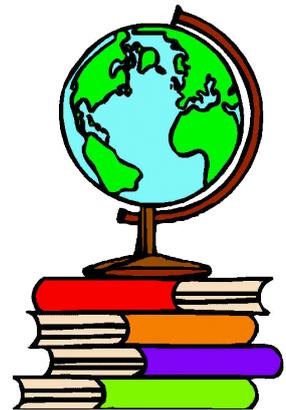
1. Our surroundings provide a wealth of material for observation - your own house, Camberley, Farnham. Stories told by grandparents of how things used to be. Visit museums and encourage questioning.
2. Visit the library to find books linked to our topics.

Geography

Geography involves the development of an awareness of place. We try to increase children's knowledge of the wider world.

How you can help

1. Although we give the children first-hand experience of other environments through our trips, our scope is naturally limited. When you visit other areas you have an ideal opportunity to raise your child's awareness of different places through observation and discussion. Encourage the use of geographical vocabulary when describing a place such as hill, bridge and coast. Help your child to find out where you are going by using a map. Discuss lengths of journeys, etc.
2. Visit the library to find books linked to our topics.



Design Technology

This involves designing, making and evaluating DT projects. Further skills are developed and the children are introduced to different tools and materials.

The majority of our DT projects require additional adult support so we will be requesting help throughout the year.

Art

The children will explore a range of materials, tools and techniques and will be encouraged to develop further skills. They will use various medium - paint, pastels, collage, drawing, etc. Evaluation of their own work and a study of works of art by famous painters will develop their skills.

How you can help in both these subjects

Let your child have experience of using tools and materials at home when designing and making, e.g. cooking; construction – recycled materials, kits, e.g. Lego.

Music

The children will participate in singing a variety of songs from different genres, including part-songs. They will learn to play the ukulele and recorder as well as untuned percussion instruments. They will continue to develop rhythmic skills and learn to read, write and appreciate music.



How you can help

Provide opportunities to listen carefully and appreciate different types of music. Make singing an everyday activity at home.

Physical Education

Our programme includes:

- ❖ Gymnastics
- ❖ Dance
- ❖ Games



How you can help

1. Please ensure that your child has suitable kit in school each day: shorts, T-shirt and plimsolls. It is advisable to check your child's footwear for size at the end of each term.
2. Please make sure that all items are named and are in a drawstring bag.
3. For safety reasons, no jewellery may be worn during physical activities. This includes pierced earrings so please ensure your child is able to take them out and put them back in themselves. Also please ensure that long hair is tied back on PE days.

Religious Education

The children will learn about different religions through stories, customs and beliefs. They will continue to study Christianity and will be introduced to Islam.

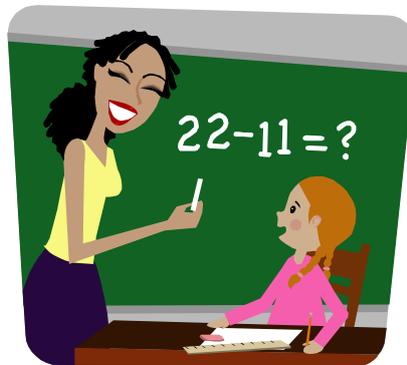
Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education

In PSHCE, the children learn about themselves as developing individuals and as members of their community, building on their previous experiences. They learn the basic rules and skills for keeping themselves healthy and safe and for behaving well. PSHCE provides opportunities for children to develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour which will enable them to become successful learners and effective citizens both within and beyond school. In addition, PSHCE lessons in Year 2 help to prepare children for their transition to junior school.

Approaches to Teaching/Learning

We try to offer various teaching styles to match different learning styles. We use mainly a single subject approach, but occasionally subjects are integrated through our topics. You will receive an overview of the topics your child will cover each term.

We encourage the children to become independent and take more responsibility for their own learning. They are required to select and obtain their own materials within the classroom, organise themselves and their work, and realise that good work is related to their own effort and attitude.



Assessment

Children's work is kept in school for monitoring and assessment purposes and you will have the opportunity to view it and discuss progress at Open Evenings during the year. We will contact you if we feel there is cause for concern at any time. If you are worried about your child's progress, please make an appointment with your child's class teacher to discuss it as soon as possible.

Children will be assessed throughout Year 2 and the results will be shared with you at the end of the year. Taking the children on holiday during term time will impact on their final Teacher Assessment judgement.

Home Learning Expectations

Home Learning should provide opportunities for partnership between home and school. Its purpose is to enhance a child's learning. The tasks set should not intrude unreasonably into the interests of the children beyond the school day.

When setting a home learning task it is important that:

- The home learning is purposeful and of value to the children.
- It matches the children's ability.
- The home learning set shows evidence of becoming progressively more demanding as the children move through the school.

In Year 2 the expectations are:

Reading: 15 minutes per night with an adult. There will be reading challenges during the holidays.

Spelling: Weekly spellings and a homework activity sheet are sent home.

Maths: Each term a Maths activities sheet is sent home detailing the key learning for the term and possible activities for children to do at home.

The current maths focus in class work is identified in the weekly parent letter sent home on Fridays.

Projects: Projects and challenges related to the class topics are sent home as appropriate e.g. The Rainforest project.



School Lunches

The Government currently funds free school lunches for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. School meals are freshly prepared and cooked on-site by Commercial Services, part of Surrey County Council. There are three choices of meal every day: a main (usually meat) option, a vegetarian option or a jacket potato. The children choose their meal at morning registration and are given a corresponding coloured band which they exchange for their meal at lunchtime. Therapeutic and religious dietary requirements are supported and considered on completion of a special diets request form which is available from the school office.

We encourage the children to try a little of everything, but they are not made to eat any food that they do not like. We expect them to use their cutlery correctly and to remember table manners. We try to make lunchtime a quiet and civilised social occasion.

We hope that the majority of parents will take up the option of a free school meal for their child. If you would like to discuss this further or you wish to send your child to school with a packed lunch, please contact the office.

Snacks & Milk

Children are encouraged to bring **water** in a named bottle to drink throughout the day. Children can refill their bottles from a water cooler as there are no water fountains in school. The school provides children with a healthy snack (e.g. fruit and vegetables) each day.

We have a school milk scheme which is run by Cool Milk. Milk is completely free for all children aged under five and for some children who receive pupil premium funding. It is subsidised for children aged five or older at around £15 per term. If you would like your child to receive a carton of semi-skimmed milk every day, simply register at www.coolmilk.com or complete a registration form available from the school office.

Transfer

This is your child's last school year at Prior Heath. Any details regarding your child's transfer to junior school will be forwarded to you as we receive them. We will do all we can to prepare your child for this transfer, socially, emotionally and academically.

Throughout the school, we encourage the children to gain confidence and independence. There are many ways that we do this. For example, in Year 2 we will be asking them to come into school on their own - to say their goodbyes to you outside the classroom and take responsibility for their own possessions. Do encourage them to do this now, while they are in a situation that is familiar. They will be expected to do this next year.

Help

We hope that the information we have given you will be helpful. There are several ways in which you can help us, and we would be so grateful for support in these areas:

1. As you know, the school day begins at 8.50am. The classroom doors are opened at 8.40am and registration is at 8.50am when the outside doors are locked for security reasons. If your child arrives after 8.50am, please report to the school office to ensure your child is included in registration and lunch numbers. Please note there is no supervision before 8.40am. Lateness has an effect on children's learning. If a child is late they may miss a crucial introduction to a session which could significantly impact on their learning. In order to help children make the best start to the day they need to be in school by 8.50am.
2. Money in envelopes helps us, as well as the office staff. If there is no envelope, we need to find one and write the information on the front.
3. Clearly named clothes and water bottles save our time and your child's.
4. If you need to change your normal collection arrangements, please notify the class teacher or office by letter.

We look forward to working with you and hope this is a successful year for everyone.

Home School Agreement

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our Home School Agreement:

The School

We will:

- Provide a high quality learning environment in which all pupils are cared for and valued.
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all children within the guidelines of the EYFS and National Curriculum.
- Maintain high standards of behaviour, encouraging sensitivity for others and respect for all.
- Ensure the safeguarding and welfare of all children.
- Keep you informed about general school matters and your child's progress.
- Offer opportunities for you to support the life of the school.
- Inform you about any concerns or problems that affect your child's work or behaviour.
- Contact you in an emergency using given contact details.
- Encourage children to do their best at all times.
- Encourage children to take care of their surroundings and others around them.

Parents/Carers

We will:

- Ensure that our child goes to school regularly and punctually and inform the school promptly when our child is sick.
- Inform the school of any concerns or problems that might affect our child's work or behaviour.

- Support the school's uniform policy by dressing our child in the agreed school uniform.
- Make sure our child arrives for school before 8.50 am and is collected promptly at the end of the school day at 2.50 pm.
- Ensure our child is not taken out of school for holidays during term time.
- Attend parents' evenings and discussions about our child's progress.
- Support the school's policies and guidelines on behaviour.
- Support all opportunities for home learning.
- Name all items of school clothing and equipment.
- Provide the school with emergency contacts and keep them updated.

We will encourage our child to:

- Be friendly, helpful and truthful.
- Be kind to everyone.
- Take care of their school and everything that belongs to it.
- Always try their best.

