

Year 2's Newsletter Autumn 2

Welcome back from the half term holiday. We hope that Halloween was filled with lots of 'ghoulish fun'! We are very much looking forward to the half term ahead. If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to either your child's class teacher or teaching assistant, as our doors are always open and we are here to help.

LITERACY

This half term, we will be learning the story of the Great Fire of London, inspired by the story Vlad and the Great Fire of London by Kate Cunningham (from the perspective of a flea!). We will read the story together, exploring the vocabulary used and thinking about what might happen next. To help us learn the story, we will re-tell it through drama and orally before writing descriptions and poetry about the fire. We will imagine what characters in the story might feel and write a diary entry as Boxtor, one of the main characters.

Next, we will explore The Gingerbread Man story and imagine being the Gingerbread Man during the Great Fire of London, writing a story about his escape from Pudding Lane. Finally, we will write some descriptions inspired by The Polar Express.

During all of our writing work we will practise *thinking a sentence, saying a sentence, writing a sentence* and finally *checking our sentence*.

Key vocabulary:

nouns	adjectives	verbs
predict	description	diary

Mathematics

We will be starting this half term by learning about money. For this, we will learn to recognise and use symbols for pounds (£) and pence (p). We will also combine amounts to make a particular value and find different combinations of coins that equal the same amounts of money. We will apply some of the knowledge we learned last half term about addition and subtraction. After learning about money, we will then learn about multiplication and division. We will explore how multiplication means making equal groups. We will explore how we can use bar models and arrays to see the relationship between multiplication and division. We will focus on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

Homework for maths will be set using Mathletics on a weekly basis. If your child requires computer access in school time, please let us know. Times tables will continue to be a key focus and you can help your child by practising these with them too.

Key vocabulary:

coins	notes	pounds	pence
multiply	divide	equal groups	
arrays	times	times tables	



SCIENCE

Our focus question for science will be: What is a life cycle? We will explore how animals change over time, thinking about different animal groups and whether the baby is born live or hatches from an egg. We will think about how humans change over time and different life stages that humans go through.

Key Vocabulary:

life cycle	reptiles
mammals	invertebrates
amphibians	humans
birds	baby
fish	adult





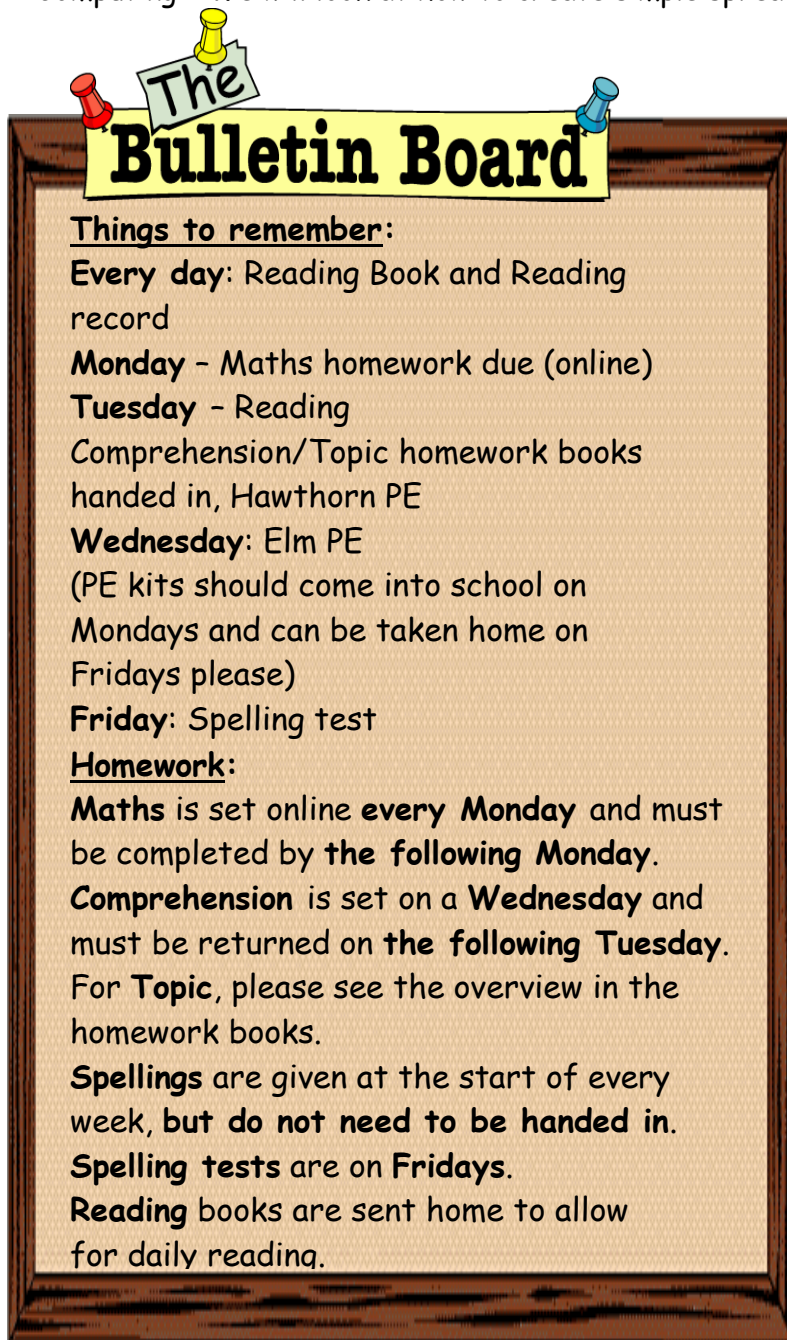
Other Curriculum Areas

PE - We will learn about how to use gymnastics and dance to create different floor routines.

PSHE - We will consider, during Anti-bullying week, how we can make a change to stop bullying. We will explore what bullying is and how it can make people feel before thinking about what we could do at our school to help stop bullying from happening.

Music - This half term, we will be exploring voice, singing and rhythm.


Computing - We will look at how to create simple spreadsheets and how to ask simple questions of data.



The Bulletin Board

Things to remember:
Every day: Reading Book and Reading record
Monday - Maths homework due (online)
Tuesday - Reading
 Comprehension/Topic homework books handed in, Hawthorn PE
Wednesday: Elm PE
 (PE kits should come into school on Mondays and can be taken home on Fridays please)
Friday: Spelling test

Homework:
Maths is set online **every Monday** and must be completed by **the following Monday**.
Comprehension is set on a **Wednesday** and must be returned on **the following Tuesday**.
 For **Topic**, please see the overview in the homework books.
Spellings are given at the start of every week, **but do not need to be handed in**.
Spelling tests are on **Fridays**.
Reading books are sent home to allow for daily reading.



My Child's Learning:

- **5th November**
3:30 - 4:00pm and 5:30 - 6:00pm
- **6th November**
3:30 - 4:00pm and 5:30 - 6:00pm

6th November at 9:00am: NSPCC workshop for parents and carers for keeping children safe online

11th November: Anti-bullying Week

11th and 13th November: Parents' Evenings

18th November: Individual photographs

16th December - Elm Christmas Performance

18th December - Hawthorn Christmas Performance

Let's take a trip back in time to 1666, when the Great Fire of London broke out in a bakery. What impact did this historical event have on our lives today? Let's find out!

Fire! Fire!



What was the Great Fire of London?

In history, we will travel back in time to London in 1666. First, we will think about how life in London then was different to now before thinking about how and why the fire started. We will learn about the reasons why the fire spread so quickly and how it was eventually put out. Next, we will learn about how sources of information can tell us about the past by looking at Samuel Pepys' diary.

We will learn about what happened after the Great Fire of London, and write questions for the King pretending to be people affected by the fire. Finally, we will become architects and design and draw a new plan for London.



Let's get arty!

In art, we will explore colour mixing and mix our own shades to create artwork related to the Great Fire of London. We will use silhouettes to represent the buildings against the blazing fire.



What are the capital cities of the countries in the UK?

First, we will find out about another important event in London, Bonfire Night, exploring the story of The Gunpowder Plot. We will then recap on the four countries of the United Kingdom, identifying capital cities and surrounding areas. Then, we will identify some human and physical features in London and compare them to other physical and human features we have learned about in Year 1 and during our India topic.

How can we make good choices?

In RE, this half term we will be learning that people always face moral choices. We will look at why rules are important before looking at some of the moral codes from Christianity and Islam, including The Ten Commandments and the Five Pillars. We will discuss how we could make the best rules for life.

