



11th September 2023

Year 2 Newsletter Autumn 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 2! We hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and are ready for the new academic year to begin.

We are really looking forward to working with your children over this important year, helping them to make as much progress as possible, whilst enjoying a stimulating, fun and exciting curriculum. Your role in this is extremely important and we would like to work in partnership with you to achieve these goals.

Topic

Our first topic of the year is 'The Animal Kingdom'. We began with Safari Pete giving the children a memorable and very hands-on introduction to a variety of different animals, which included a snowy owl, a tarantula, a tree frog, snakes, a bearded dragon and even a crocodile. Over the half term we will also investigate the animals that live in a range of different local habitats, including the school, the allotment, Highgate Woods and Hampstead Heath. The children will explore the concept of life, discussing the differences between living things, dead things and things that have never lived. They will find out about the conditions that are required to enable animals to live, including identifying the different plants within each habitat that support life. We will take a philosophical approach to discuss our changing world and the effect it has on wildlife, as well as the relationship between human and animals: the role of zoos and the difference between wild animals and pets. Finally, the children will learn about the classification of animals.

English: writing and phonics

The topic introduces children to a range of animal stories, including animals in familiar settings and traditional tales. We will begin the term by looking at a range of instruction texts, including the Usborne books 'Looking After Cats and Kittens' and 'Looking After Dogs and Puppies', which will prepare the children to then create their own instruction booklets on how to look after a dog. The children will then explore the texts of Judith Kerr, including the 'Mog' books and 'The Tiger who came to Tea'. We will be exploring how these stories are structured and using them as models for our own writing. Our final text type will be traditional stories, in which we will look at the well-known tale, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', and an alternative version, 'Me and You' by Anthony Browne, which will inspire the children to create their own version of a traditional story.

Throughout the half-term, we will be revising the children's knowledge of the Phase 5 phonics which they learnt last year, ensuring that any gaps which may have developed during lockdown are addressed and helping children make more accurate choices between alternative spellings, as well as focusing on high frequency words. In handwriting, we will revise the correct formation of letters before continuing to develop the children's joined-up writing.

English: reading

The children will continue to read in school on a regular basis, whether independently, in a guided group, or as a whole class, as well as having stories read to them. They will continue to develop their reading fluency but will increasingly focus on understanding more complex texts at a deeper level. Starting next week, most children will be assigned an e-



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book and all children will take home a book of their choice from the class library. Please read with them, and talk about what they have read, for at least 20 minutes every day. Starting from next week, your child will be bringing home a new Reading Record, which should always be kept in his/her book bag and brought into school each day. Please use the Reading Record to communicate with us about how your children are getting on or if you have any questions. Children can also write in their own Reading Record about what they enjoyed about their book or anything new they have learned.

Maths

Our initial focus this half term, is on securing the children's understanding of number and of how our number system is structured. We will develop children's knowledge of place value in numbers to 100 by reading, writing, representing, estimating, comparing and ordering them. Later in the half term, we will recap addition and subtraction, applying known number facts to reasoning word problems. In mental Maths, we will strengthen children's ability to count forwards and backwards in ones, twos, fives and tens and to recall these times tables, whilst also securing their knowledge of pairs of numbers which add up to 10 and their fluency in adding and subtracting single-digit numbers.

Music

Our specialist music teacher, Hilla, will continue to teach music lessons this year. This half term the children will be exploring The Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saens and after half term they will have the opportunity to learn to play the recorder.

PE

The sports focus this half term is on fundamental ball skills including throwing and catching, rolling, hitting a target, dribbling with both hands and feet and kicking a ball. In the gym, the children will focus on gymnastics and dance, exploring space and simple movement.

PE Days

Tuesday and Thursday

PE Kit

We want children to have as much time as possible being active, so please send your child in to school on PE days wearing trainers and appropriate clothing so that they don't have to change prior to PE lessons.

Home Learning

In Year 2, children will be assigned two pieces of home learning each week on a Thursday, due in on Wednesday. This will usually be English and Maths but sometimes there will be a topic related activity instead. This will be set on Google Classroom. Next week, children will be sent home with a home learning book. They can either hand in their books to be marked physically, or parents can submit a photo on Google Classroom and receive comments on there. If the homework needs any printed resources, we will send them home. Please let us know if you prefer a printed copy.

Trips and visits

We have some exciting trips planned for this half term, starting with a day trip to London Zoo and a Pond Dipping visit to Hampstead Heath in October (exact dates to be confirmed). Further letters will be sent home shortly.

Key Dates for the Half Term

Friday 29 th September	Trip to London Zoo
Week beginning 9 th October - TBC	Heath Beasts workshop

Forest School



We will be starting Forest School next week and, as always, rely on parent volunteers to accompany us. Please let us know if you can help by signing up using the Google Sheets link:

2EH Google Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1E8FMbfuNG8-7Ga_cf7KQEKaHAXOSs-e2CYwnuzXkaiw/edit#gid=0

2RB Google Sheet:

- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qJgtEgIfYsOirgWWbeVGPUXNjwdO8LeUeuhoIg45WI/edit#gid=0>

2EH will be going to the woods on Tuesday afternoons and 2RB on Thursday afternoons. We ask if accompanying parents could be at school by 1.15pm to help the children get ready in the new Forest School hut in the lower playground. Contributions of instant hot chocolate (to be made with hot water rather than milk) will be very gratefully received. Here are the dates for this half term:

2EH	2RB
Wed 12 th Sept Owls	Thursday 14 th Sept Squirrels
Wed 19 th Sept Foxes	Thursday 21 st Sept Owls
Wed 3 rd Oct Owls	Thursday 5 th October Squirrels
Wed 17 th Oct Foxes	Fri 19 th Oct Owls

Groups:

2EH

Owls: Alia, Alma, Ayla, Buddy, Claire, Freyja, Frida, Heath, Leen, Luke, Marta, Noah, Paloma, Suleimane, Tedo, Zubaid

Foxes: Alice, Archie, Cairo, Elena, Isken, Jamie, Lana, Leo, Leonie, Liri, Louie, Louise, Lucas, Melody, River

2RB

Squirrels Aleks, Arthur, Aydrea, Bara, Cassius, Karis, Lola, Mateo, Mayanshi, Noah, Robyn, Rohan, Ryan, Sammy, Yaren, Yuri

Owls Ben, Charlotte, Erhan, Gracie, Hazel, Lillian, Loukas, Malik, Meryem, Myles, Niamh, Otis, Sebastian, Tobias

Toys

If children bring toys into school, please can they remain in their bags until the end of the day, to avoid them getting misplaced, damaged or any disagreements. Thank you!

Water bottles

Please could children bring a water bottle into school every day, and, as the name suggests, it should contain only water not squash or juice.



Should you have any questions, concerns or information to share, we are always available for a quick chat before and after school; alternatively, please feel free to make an appointment for a longer meeting.

Email addresses

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With very best wishes,

Emily, Rob, Faye & Jimmar



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