



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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17th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of Mrs Webster and myself, I wish you all a warm welcome back after the Christmas break. I hope the festive season brought you relaxation and joy. Thank you for the thoughtful cards and generous Christmas gifts; your kindness is truly appreciated. Last term, there was a slight staffing reshuffle: Miss Murphy moved up to Year 5 to support that class, and Ms Cole joined the Year 2 team on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

This half term starts with Year 2 delving into the theme of 'Poles Apart.'

Throughout the term, our focus will be on the growth of plants in both light and dark environments. Topics will include understanding plant components, their growth requirements, and conducting experiments on their responses to light and darkness. Later in the term, we will explore living things in their habitats, exploring ecosystems worldwide and the interesting food chains within them. An overview of these subjects can be found in the accompanying topic plan.

Homework serves as a valuable way for you to stay connected with your children's learning journey. Every Friday, homework including reading, spelling, TTRS, and Mathletics will be provided. Spellings will be set through the Purple Mash homework blog, and Mathletics tasks should be completed by the following Wednesday. Children will need to learn the 2, 5 and 10 times tables fluently this year. So please practise these with them whenever you can and use Times Tables Rock Stars to support the rehearsal of these facts. If you do not have access to a computer or tablet, please let me know so that I can make arrangements for your child to complete their tasks in school.

Encouraging a genuine love for reading remains a priority at St William of York. Given the stage where children are refining decoding skills, reading stories to them every day plays an important role. In addition to their phonics book, adding another 10 to 15 minutes daily to reading a story will develop their love of storybooks. Reading packs will be distributed every Friday, with a request for their return by the following Thursday. Kindly record their reading progress in their reading record.

Our PE lessons are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday but we ask that children bring their PE kits in on a Monday, where it will remain on their peg until Friday, when they will take it home to be washed. To avoid any confusion, please ensure that all school uniforms and PE kit items are clearly labelled with your child's name. Additionally, for safety reasons, please ensure that your child can independently remove their earrings, as jewellery is not permitted during PE lessons.

I am very grateful that the return to school has been so positive and I look forward to working with you and your children this term. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office or directly at year2@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Katy Richards
Yr2 Class Teacher

English

This half term, the children will explore non-fiction texts about habitats. *One Day on our Blue Planet: Antarctica* will take us to the icy expanses, highlighting the wildlife and challenges of this unique environment. The children will use this text as a basis for their own non-fiction writing.

Later in the term, Year 2 will read *Leaf* by Sandra Dieckmann and *The Dark* by Daniel Handler. Through these stories, we aim to develop a love for storytelling and language.

Maths

In Maths, Year 2 will start by learning about multiplication and division, building on their knowledge of number facts and times tables. As the term goes on, we will move onto measurements, beginning with length and height. The children will become confident at measuring lengths in metres and centimetres, and then they will use these skills to compare different lengths. After that, they will start measuring the mass of objects using grams and kilograms. Towards the end of the term, they'll explore temperature and understand different scales, paying attention to increments of 2, 5, and 10.

Geography

As we explore Northern Europe, we'll discover its interesting weather—warm summers and super cold winters. We'll focus on Scandinavian countries like Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, understanding the unique cultures embedded in their surroundings. An exciting part of our learning will be uncovering how people and animals in Northern Europe have adapted smartly to survive the chilly winters, showcasing their resilience and clever strategies.



Year 2

Topic: Poles Apart

Teacher: Katy Richards

Science

Plants (light and dark)

In our plant-themed lessons, we will look at the fascinating world of plants, both in the light and the dark. We'll explore different plants, learn about their various parts, and understand what they need to grow. Through hands-on activities, we'll create plans and observe how plants thrive in both light and dark conditions, unravelling the secrets of their growth.

Living things and their habitats

This term children will be learning about animals and their habitats. They will particularly focus on animals living in deserts. They will learn about microhabitats and explore these locally. Later in the term, they will learn about food chains and use these as inspiration for their writing. To consolidate their work on habitats they will visit The Horniman Museum for a workshop of Pond Dipping and looking at the local habitats.

ICT

In Purple Mash ICT sessions, children will begin acquiring essential skills for questioning and effective searching, improving their abilities to ask focused questions and retrieve information online.

PE

This half term, indoor PE will be gymnastics, exploring flexibility and coordination. Outdoors PE, will be football, embracing teamwork and sportsmanship. After half-term, indoor PE will be fitness sessions, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Outdoors, the excitement continues with the introduction of cricket, where students can enjoy the thrill of the game while continuing their teamwork and coordination skills.

Art/DT

We will be looking into expressive painting in the Access Art module, where students will have the opportunity to unleash their imagination on canvas.

Our focus on renowned artists, Van Gogh and Cezanne, will provide inspiration and insight into their distinctive styles and techniques. Additionally, the artistic journey continues with the creation of habitat boxes, allowing students to craft miniature worlds that reflect their understanding of ecosystems and habitats. Later in the term, children will create and sew felt animal puppets.

RE

In the initial part of this term, our focus in Religious Education revolves around the significance of special books, particularly the Bible and the Gospels. Subsequently, we will delve into understanding the Eucharist and the dynamics of the parish family, paving the way for our exploration of Lent in anticipation of Easter.

RSE

During story times and assemblies, children will engage in discussions about giving, being grateful for their blessings, and emphasising the importance of community connections.