



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

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Thursday 1st May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to a new term. The children have impressed us with the way they have settled back over the last week and we are pleased to see they have returned to school full of enthusiasm, and eager to continue their learning journey. We will continue to assess and adapt lessons to suit the needs of the children and ensure the children feel supported, as we progress through the Year 2 curriculum.

Following Mrs Webster's departure, we are pleased to inform you that Ms McKenzie has been appointed as the new Year 2 Teaching Assistant. Ms McKenzie brings with her a warm, positive attitude and a genuine passion for supporting children's learning and development. We are delighted to welcome her to the Year 2 team, and we are confident that she will quickly build strong relationships with the children and staff.

This half term, Year 2's first topic is called '**Incredible Kenya**'. The focus of the learning will be on comparing the human and physical geography of the United Kingdom to East Africa. Later in the term, our topic is '**The Circle of Life**'. The children will be learning about the lives of significant individuals and the impact they have had on our world. Having a diverse and inclusive curriculum is important to us here at SWOY. The high quality texts the children will explore have been carefully chosen and celebrate a range of cultures. We will continue with the RSE programme this term using the TenTen resources to learn about our emotions and how to keep safe. Please see the topic plan for more information about the curriculum.

Homework provides an excellent opportunity for you to keep abreast of what your children are learning. There will be reading, spelling (via Purple Mash) and Mathletics set every Friday. All information in regards to homework can be found on the Purple Mash homework blog. The children will continue to be set Mathletics and tasks should be completed by the following Wednesday. Children will need to learn the 2, 5 and 10-times tables fluently this year and should access Times Table Rockstars at least three times per week to help them to improve their fluency.

At St William of York, we want your children to develop a real love for reading, but this can prove difficult at a time when they are still learning to decode fluently. This is why reading to your child every day is crucial at this stage in their development. So, in addition to hearing them read their reading book to you, do read a story to them; it will only take 10 or 15 minutes but will make a huge difference to their attitude to reading to see that you value reading stories. Children will be given a reading pack on a **Friday** and it should be returned the following **Thursday**. Please record what they have read, in their reading record.

P.E lessons will be on **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. Please ensure your child brings in their P.E kit on a Monday in preparation for the lessons that week, and takes it home on a Friday to be washed over the weekend. Please make sure that P.E kits and school uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Last half term, a letter was sent out informing parents that Year Two have been given the opportunity to visit the forest every Thursday morning. This exciting experience will support their geography topic by helping them develop spatial sense through activities like reading and drawing simple maps. It will also allow them to explore different plants growing in their natural habitat, enriching their understanding of the natural world. We've already had a number of volunteers to help, but if you're interested in joining us, please do let me know. We're also very fortunate to have Mr Morris supporting these sessions. His training and experience will be a great asset, and I'm sure the children will really benefit from and enjoy this hands-on learning opportunity.

We are a happy team here at SWOY and glad to have the opportunity to enable your children to learn and achieve their goals. Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any concerns or queries. You may contact us via the school office or send an email directly to krichards19.209@lgflmail.org.

Yours sincerely

Katy Richards
Year 2 Class Teacher

English

In this term, Year 2 will be reading the texts 'Lila and the Secret of Rain', 'The Story Tree – The Sweetest Song', and 'One Day on our Blue Planet'. While exploring these texts, pupils will draw inspiration from them to write their own narratives, non-chronological reports, and instructional texts. Next term, the children will learn about notable females in history by exploring biographical texts and newspaper reports. They will familiarise themselves with the features of these non-fiction texts and explore various forms of writing. Additionally, the children will be reading 'Tadpole's Promise', which aligns with the Year 2 science topic on life cycles.

Maths

This term we will continue to explore maths using a mastery approach. Children will continue to develop their understanding of number and calculation through problem solving challenges. Throughout the term, children will revisit key concepts explored during Year 2. In their multiplication and division work, children will continue to master how to multiply and divide by 2, 5 and 10.

Later in the term, children will learn to read time to the nearest 5 minutes and calculate start or end times. They will also focus on Statistics, as well as Position and Direction.

Geography

This term, children will learn about the continent of Africa and be able to draw comparisons between England and Kenya. They will also focus on Spatial sense where they learn the skills to read and gather information from a simple map.

History

Later in the term, Year 2 will be looking throughout history at significant people, like Gandhi, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Malala Yousafzai, and Greta Thunberg, who have all made big changes in the world, fighting for political freedom, civil rights, education rights, and environmental activism. We will study these individuals and their impact on society.

Science

Plants

This term, children will learn how to grow plants. They will identify: the different parts of a plant; what a plant needs to grow; and about the process of photosynthesis.

Growing Up

Later in the term, children will learn about the importance of the life cycle and what humans and animals need in order to survive. They will focus particularly on balanced diets and forms of exercise.



Year 2

Topic: Incredible Kenya & The Circle of Life

Teacher: Katy Richards

Art & DT

During the summer term, Year 2 students will engage in mono-printing, exploring themes of change, growth, and life. They will also look at the works of Xgaoc'o X'are in Artist Focus sessions, and create Masai beaded necklaces as part of a craft activity.

In the following half term, Year 2 students will transition to crafting felt animal puppets through sewing.

ICT

This term children will use Purple Mash software to learn about coding and programming. They will also use iPads to access the internet, as a source for research. Their ICT work will also include an element of publication, as the children will type up some of their own writing using Microsoft Word.

RE

Our first topic this term is about special messages and how the disciples spread the good news of the Holy Spirit. We will then reflect on rules and compose sorry prayers. This will lead into our final RE topic about treasures and CAFOD.

PE

Children will participate in indoor PE covering a range of physical skills and techniques vital in games. During indoor PE children will have Dance lessons and they will be taught different styles of dancing native to Kenya, such as the Mwomboko Dance which is from the Kikuyu Tribe.

RSE

Following the TenTen programme, children will explore themes of determination, perseverance, trust and friendship. They will explore how to keep safe and how to regulate their emotions.