

Dear Y2 Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to welcome our children back to school and have been incredibly impressed with how they have settled into Y2. They are the oldest children in KS1 and what shining examples they have been to the younger children! We are sure that we are in for an exciting year ahead and as we explained to the children on the first day, we aim to *'learn lots, laugh and smile lots and to create lots of memories'*.

Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you-

PE

Our PE days are **Tuesday** (outdoor) and **Wednesday** (indoor). PE kits should be in school on these days and please ensure they have shorts and t-shirt for inside and a pair of trainers, a warm pair of trousers and tracksuit type jacket for outside. If your child wears earrings, please ensure that if they are unable to remove them by themselves, they are taken out on our PE days.

Outdoor learning

At The Ellis we are working hard to continually develop the outdoor environment and opportunities to learn outside and in Y2 we will be using our outdoor classroom and wider school environment as much as possible. This means that your child will need appropriate footwear, a pair of wellies and coats every day. Indoor pumps will be needed in school to protect our classrooms from the inevitable mud! We will also be enjoying Forest School sessions with Miss Batley this half term on a Tuesday and the children will be split into two groups of 15 and will go out every other week.

Reading Books

Your child will bring home a coloured banded reading book to share with you at home. Please record in their reading diary when they have read to an adult or maybe an older sibling. We ask that reading diaries are in your child's book bag every day. If reading diaries are filled then we will send home a second diary free of charge, however if it is lost then we ask that a new one is bought from the office at the cost of £1. Your child is welcome to change their book any day of the week when they have completed it. Children should aim to read at home at least 3 times per week and raffle tickets will be awarded for reading. We will also send home a Read Write Inc Phonics book which we will change every Monday. This is so that your child can practise re-reading it a few times to develop fluency and automaticity. Once your child has completed the grey Read Write Inc Book Bag Books, they have completed the phonic books and we will stop sending them home, however we will continue sending the colour banded books.

Spelling books

Next week, the children will receive a green spelling book. They will stick in their new spellings on a Friday and bring their book home to practise. The spellings will also be on Spelling Shed each week. Please support your child in learning their spellings. They will be regularly assessed in their spellings. Their spelling books need to be in their book bag every **Friday**.

TT Rock Stars

Learning times tables is a crucial part of the maths curriculum and regular practise really helps. TT Rock Stars is an online programme when children can practise their tables. We aim to recall the 2, 5 and 10 times tables at speed in Y2. All children have been set the 10 times table to start with and once we see that your child can do these quickly, we will start adding in the others. The login is stuck in the front of their reading diary. Please practise as much as possible. Thank you.

Home Learning

Each half term, children are expected to complete a home learning project linked to our topic. I have attached a sheet of a few ideas linked to our topic but feel free to create your own ideas! We are always intrigued to see what our superstars have been up to! Once they have completed their project or projects (as some children prefer to do a few shorter projects, whilst others like to complete one long one), please send them into school so we can share their learning with the class. (Photos or PowerPoints can be emailed to Mrs Fiddes and will be passed onto Year 2 staff to share). Please encourage your child to take pride in their home learning and aim for a quality piece that may have taken a few sessions to complete.

Future Dates

Before the summer we sent home an email asking for contributions towards our Y1 and Y2 Great Fire of London visitors who are coming into school on Wednesday 12th October. We ask that any contributions are made as soon as possible so we can check that the visit can go ahead. If insufficient funds are raised, then the trip may have to be cancelled.

Please ensure you regularly check your emails as we will be sending out future dates and information for the coming weeks ahead.

You can find the Amazing Astronauts on Twitter @TheEllisY2

We use Twitter to share the learning we are doing at school, celebrate achievements and give information.

May we take this opportunity to say how much we are looking forwards to spending the year with your children and if there is anything we can help with, please do ask.

Our first topic begins with Marvellous Me (wk 1-3) and then Fire! Fire (Great Fire of London – Week 4-8) and below is an overview of the learning we will be doing this half term.

RE

In RE this half term, we will be focusing on the question *'Is it possible to be kind to everyone all the time?'* It is based around Christianity and looks at stories in the bible which are centred on the commandment *'Love your neighbour as yourself'*.

PE

Our PE days are **Tuesday** (outdoors) and **Wednesday** (indoors). We will be focusing on ball skills outside and fundamental skills inside. These skills are a good starting point for the other Y2 units of PE which will follow. Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school on these days. Thank you.

HISTORY

Our focus during the second part of the half term will be 'The Great Fire of London'. We will be gathering information from various resources, sequencing events, comparing houses, firefighting equipment in the past and present, using vocabulary to show the passing of time and understanding why things happened and what happened as a result of this historical event.

ENGLISH

We begin by reading a book called 'Pattan's Pumpkin'. It is set in India and has beautiful illustrations and an engaging storyline. We will move onto studying 'The Great Fire of London'. We will use various resources to find out the facts about the events before looking at Samuel Pepys famous diary. During the half term we will write thought and speech bubbles, write letters and questions as well as completing various drama activities. We will also learn how to write diaries to recall events. We will end the half term studying poetry about food linked to harvest.

We will also be continuing with VIPERS in order to develop our ability to answer questions about a text and guided reading sessions to develop our fluency in reading and comprehension skills. We will recap the Read Write Phonics we learnt in Y1 and when ready, will move onto RWInc Spelling.

GEOGRAPHY

We will be looking at the four countries which make up the UK and naming and locating their capital cities. We will then focus on London and compare what it was like before and after The Great Fire of London. We will be using maps, globes and atlases throughout and will be making maps. We will begin to develop our geographical vocabulary.

Marvellous Me



Fire! Fire!

ART

We will be learning about the hatching and cross hatching skills needed when creating pencil sketches. We will also be learning about an artist called Cath Riley who was born in West Yorkshire. We will focus on drawing different foods and nature pieces such as leaves and feathers.

ICT

We will be learning about different paint programmes and exploring how to use the tools to create different pictures. We will experiment with a range of programmes, choosing the best one for the picture we are creating.

SCIENCE

The focus of our first science unit is 'Health and Growth' which will include ways of staying healthy including eating the right amount of each food group, exercising and maintaining personal hygiene. We will also label the body (and skeleton) and learn the different stages of growth from a baby to an adult. We will also match baby and adult animals together, learning to name them and recognise changes as they grow. We will end the half term carrying out a science investigation which involves tracking our heart beat and pulse during different types of physical activity.

MUSIC

Our Charanga unit is entitled *'How does music help us to make friends?'* and we will be learning two songs about friendship. We will also be learning 'London's Burning' as a round and listening to Indian music linked to our English book 'Pattan's Pumpkin'.

MATHS

We will begin by focusing on place value and learning to read, write, partition, compare and order numbers to 100. We will also be completing problem solving activities linked to place value.

We will then move onto addition and subtraction and will learn how to use apparatus to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers. Once we are confident with apparatus, we will move onto drawing tens and ones to help us and will focus on exchanging when subtracting. Finally we will learn how to use the partitioned column method to add and subtract numbers to 100.

Children are encouraged to use TTRockstars to consolidate their learning at home.

Home learning suggestions

Here are some learning activities that you can do with your children at home to support their learning in school.

Marvellous Me (Healthy and Growth)

- You all have amazing talents – send a video clip or photo of you showing us your talent e.g. gymnastics, cycling, dancing, footballing, cooking etc.
- Cook healthy recipes- bring photographs or recipes to share.
- Write acrostic poems for different fruit.

E.g. **G**reen or red

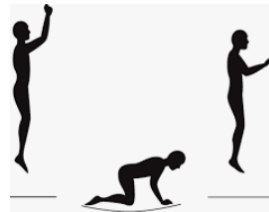
Really juicy

Amazing to eat

Perfect for a snack

Eat them all

Super sweet



- Find out about where different foods come from.
- Make pieces of art using fruit and vegetable prints.
- Ask your friends and family about their favourite foods and record as a tally.
- Find different ways of sorting fruit and vegetables and record in a venn or carol diagram.
- Create a menu for your dream meal.

Fire! Fire! (Great Fire of London)

- Do some research about London nowadays – landmarks etc and then look at what London was like in 1666 and compare.
- Create a collage of a fire using different materials.
- Look at some Tudor houses and make pencil sketches of them.
- Explore colour mixing using red, orange and yellow. Create different shades and tones.
- The fire started in a bakery so how about tasting some different breads and writing a review about them.
- British Bake Off style – try baking bread! Can you add some flavour such as garlic, cheese or raisins?
- Make a model of the city using lego and re-enact the fire spreading.



You can choose which of these activities you would like to do. You do not need to do all of them! We also know that you and your children have lots of original and creative ideas of your own. We love to see these too! Please encourage your child to bring their learning into school to share.

If you have any questions, queries or worries then please get in touch via the phone or email.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

The Y2 Team.