

# Welcome to Year 2: Sharks and Dolphins!

Miss Wood

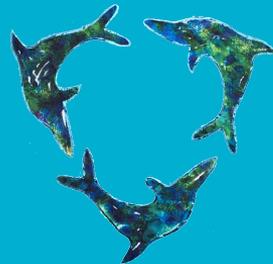
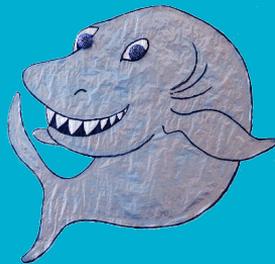
Mrs Barber

Mrs Stobbie

Miss Wakeling

Miss Heseltine

Mrs Theo



Mrs Scott-Simons

Mrs Wilson

Mrs Hawkes

Miss Strutt

Miss Cross

# Year 2 organisation and curriculum 2024

---

## Class organisation

In Year 2 we have two parallel classes. Each class has a combination of ages, abilities, boys and girls.

## Teaching and Learning

Each half term there is an overarching topic for the whole year group. This half term our topic is **London's Burning**. We chose this topic based on the text *The Great Fire of London by Stewart Ross* for the first time about three years ago and it sparked a lot of interest in the children and indeed prompted quite a few family visits to Pudding Lane! (I went myself over the summer holidays and climbed the 311 steps of the GFofL monument!) We are already seeing that spark of interest from many of the children again this year! We study our topic using a mixture of whole class or guided groups, collaborative work with a partner, or small group and independent work.

# Lessons in Year 2

---

Individual lessons are planned in-line with the National curriculum and build on the progression of skills from Y1 to ensure coverage and to avoid undue repetition. Staff assess the key skills in each subject and subject leaders monitor progress and attainment throughout the year. Where possible cross curricular links are made across our planning. We will continue to use the mastery approach to our teaching. This is an "all children can" approach which deepens understanding and provides challenges for everyone. Invariably, there will be gaps that need filling - we aim to reduce and close such gaps through our teaching content and learning and via 1:1, small group work and intervention groups as and when needed.

Activities and tasks are set to assess or review prior learning, apply new skills and consolidate learning. Pupils are encouraged to attempt new challenges, share their learning, develop independence and become confident in sharing their point of view.

# A typical day/week in Year 2

Throughout Year 2, morning lessons will primarily focus on reading, writing, phonics and maths skills. The afternoons will include additional subjects such as PE, the arts and humanities. Each Wednesday's PE lesson will be taught by Miss Wakeling. She is an LSA in our school as well as a GB ice-hockey player and is also a children's coach. Mrs Wilson will teach both classes Music and Mrs Huckle, PSHE each week. As previously mentioned, where possible we make cross curricular links to reinforce learning and provide opportunities to apply new skills.

Pupil wellbeing is a priority and physical activities are known to enhance wellbeing. **Y2 PE** days will be on **Monday and Wednesday**. The children will come into school in their PE kit/trainers on their PE days, so please ensure that they do this - thank you!

This half term, Year 2 pupils will have **Forest School** on **Tuesday if in SHARKS** and on a **Thursday if in DOLPHINS**

# Reading

Pupils are encouraged to read and listen to a range of genres and develop their knowledge of well known authors and to develop a love of books and reading. To help children become fluent readers we will focus on reading with expression (prosody), accuracy and appropriate speed as well as developing their reading comprehension skills. There will be group reading sessions, echo and choral reading as well as opportunities to focus on developing their vocabulary and reading strategies/skills that we will teach and assess. Those children who need further support will receive additional interventions within school. As most of you are aware, your children will bring home a carefully matched 'decodable' phonics book to read with you at home. [\(In accordance to our new Little Wandle Phonics Programme\)](#) This book will be linked to their current Phonics understanding and you will find that they will most likely be able to read at least 85% of the text with a good degree of fluency and understanding. They will have read this book in school with us the week before it comes home. If your child is on a FLUENCY book, PLEASE can you make sure that this book comes back into school EVERY day. Your child will also choose a weekly library book to take home and share with you. This is chosen by them because they have an interest in the book and will most likely need to be read by you to them. Please sign and date your child's **reading record book** when you or someone has listened to them read (it could be signed by their pet, if they've read to them!) Children love to have that recognition. We will also 'stamp' their record books whenever they have read within a group or individually with an adult.

# What Little Wandle says:

---

## Reading practice book

**This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.**

**Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.**

# Phonics

---

In response to our recent **Ofsted Report**, together with our own findings, we changed our Phonics Programme last academic year and are really pleased with the results. Our new Government approved scheme is called **Little Wandle** and we have seen that across the school children's reading ability, fluency and confidence has greatly developed. Your children have daily phonics lessons, which will develop into spelling sessions. Those children that we have identified who need extra support are working in a smaller group with a skilled LSA and will have further intervention sessions to help narrow any gaps in knowledge.

Those pupils who didn't meet the Year 1 Phonics Screening threshold this year, will have another attempt at the Phonics Screening in June 2025.

# English

---

We use the **Take One Book** approach, which provides us with lovely engaging texts which lend themselves to a mixture of curriculum areas. We encourage the children to use imaginative and descriptive words/phrases, a variety of sentence starters, joining words and a range of punctuation. They should also be applying their phonic skills. The children will be taught how to correctly form their letters using 'Letterjoin' and will be encouraged to use and develop a joined script. We love to 'magpie' words and encourage the children to do so too and to use them in their speaking and writing. We have a 'Park It' grid in our classrooms, where we encourage the children to 'park' any new and exciting words they have come across. We also have our 'Word of the Week' on display, which we encourage the children to use both verbally and in their writing. Ultimately, we want them to LOVE words and not be afraid of them!

# Maths

---

All Year 2 pupils will have a daily maths lesson using the maths mastery approach. We primarily use White Rose planning and resources and build on small steps to aid progression. **Maths manipulatives** (*counters, tens frames, base 10, number lines etc*) are used as an aid by all children to support them. Through this children will develop their fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills. We will continue to support and extend understanding and develop all pupils' mathematical skills. We sometimes use Maths of the Day activities based on the National Curriculum learning objectives, together with active maths in the outdoor areas around school. Some children may receive additional support to improve their confidence, reduce gaps in learning and improve basic skills and all children will be encouraged to complete mathematical challenges.

# Home Learning

---

Home Learning takes the form of a half term **activity passport**, applying taught skills, promoting basic life skills, independent learning and wellbeing. We hope that these activities will be enjoyed by the whole family! We love to see and hear what the children do out of school and pupils will be given opportunities to share the activities they have completed with the rest of their class and bring in work to put on display in the classroom. All children will bring home a decodable reading book along with a library book as previously mentioned. Please ensure these are in school everyday. Spellings will come home once our phonics review lessons are completed.

## A final thought!

Let's share your child's learning journey - with **their** effort and motivation, **your** support and encouragement and **our** skill, dedication and attention to each individual, we can all work together to help your children reach their full potential and become confident, independent and happy individuals.

