

YEAR 2 NEWSLETTER

SPRING TWO 2024



Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term! It was lovely to see you all the parents in face-to face meetings for parents evening at the end of Spring 1. We are all so proud of your children!

How are we in Spring 2 already? We have so much wonderful learning planned for this half-term... we can't wait to get started!

ENRICHMENT DAY: India Day

Year 2 will start Spring 2 with an enrichment day. India Day is on **Friday 1stth March**. We cannot wait to see all the wonderful contributions our families create for this day!

Children will be able to dress in the colours of the Indian flag or in traditional Indian dress if they would like. It will be a full day of learning – building upon our learning last half term and at a perfect timing for Holi! Watch out for the Priory Rise Facebook portal – there will be lots of photos from our day!

WORLD BOOK DAY

We have World Book Day on **Thursday 7th March** and, this year, the whole school is going to be having a Festival of Reading! We have so many wonderful activities to do that celebrate books to promote a **lifelong** love of reading!

Year 2 will be having a focus on 'Oi' books in Year 2 and even write our own! We will have story times and sharing times – including a visit to our reading hut!

Children can dress up as their favourite book character if they would like to – and if they would rather not, that is okay too! Our main aim of the day is to have a joy in sharing books.



CURRICULUM



Our new theme this half term is Up, Up and Away... linked to journeys. We will use this to link many curriculum areas .

In **English**, we will be beginning with the wonderful story 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. Here the children will be using their inference skills to identify feels and clues to how the main character is feeling at different points in the text. We will use our reading vipers to help us and our lenses to help with both reading and writing! We will be making predictions and will also be using our empathy skills to put ourselves in the position of the main character , writing descriptions and first

person recounts.

In **History**, we will be looking at the life of Neil Armstrong and his journey into space. We will be placing events into a timeline with other aspects of History we have learned about this year, such as The Gunpowder Plot, The Great Fire of London as well as the learning about Rosa Parks , dates linked to Remembrance Day and dates of the artists we have learned about. We will also be learning about Catherine Johnson and her amazing work in space travel.



In **Science** we will be continuing with our theme of 'Animals including Humans' and link our them to us changing and growing. We will be learning about germs with our glitter and how to wash our hands correctly and will be investigating bacteria in a potato investigation! In addition we will be learning about the importance of exercise and a healthy diet in order to keep our bodies working well.

Our Science links to **PSHE** . In our Jigsaw lessons, we will be learning about creating a healthy mind and healthy body.



In **DT** we will be developing an understanding of structures and will be investigating free standing structures, designing a photo frame, making it and evaluating our work. This will build upon the skills in Autumn term where we learned about moving mechanisms and the children are going to be able to use saws!

In **RE** we will be learning about the Jewish and Christian faiths , building upon our learning in the Autumn term and will be learning about the celebrations around this time of year. We will learn about Jewish symbols, the Mezuzah and the customs that those of the Jewish faith follow during Shabbat and will learn about how and why Christians celebrate Easter.

We have so much exciting learning to do in such a short half term!

PE reminder



The children need to wear PE kit to school on their PE days please.

Your child cannot wear any jewellery during PE. If your child has pierced ears, please ensure that they can either remove the earrings themselves, or that they do not wear them on PE days. Alternatively, please provide them with a roll of micro-pore tape to keep in their PE bag so that they can cover their earrings. Children with long hair will also require a hair band to tie it back.

Can we also take this opportunity to remind you that children should only have school PE kit. Please refer to the school's uniform policy for clarification if you are unsure. This can be found on our website.



We would like your child to read for a short while each night.

Reading is so important to all other areas of the curriculum and opens a word of learning to your child. We see it as a **vital** part of their home learning.

Many of our children now read with increasing accuracy and our work with Reading Vipers and reading lenses is working well. Thank you for your support with this, we have really appreciated your targeted comments and it has helped us to move your children on in their reading.

We are promoting a **mastery approach** to reading – where children read with pace and flow, they use expression and spend time on a book, reading sections more than once so that they sound like a story- teller, rather than race to read the next one without really understanding the text.

You can support this by reading some of the pages to your child as a good model and then they copy your expression, this is not cheating.... this is great learning and will increase comprehension skills enormously!

We are keen to work in partnership with you and it is great to see so many of you writing comments in the red **Home School Link book**.

We are continually assessing accuracy, use of their **phonic** knowledge, pace of reading and deep understanding of the text. When ready, we will move their phonic book set and reading band level. We want your child to enjoy the books on offer at each level, to have a breadth of book styles and content. The more they read the more words they learn and the cleverer they become! It really does make such a huge difference to all areas of learning.



Your child will be bringing home a **library book** each week, a colour coded book for language acquisition to share with you, which they can change themselves on their designated day and a book that is directly matched to their phonic ability (until they have a secure knowledge and use of all phonemes). This book is their reading book that they read to you and will be changed by the class teacher once a week – to ensure mastery of the text and lots of rehearsal with the sounds in the book. Making sure that they can blend the sounds at pace to increase pace and comprehension.

If you need any advice on hearing your child read, please talk to a class teacher or Mrs Truan. There is just a quick reminder that our VIPER questions are on the website on our Year 2 page, and we have uploaded additional questions to Google Classroom. If you would like a printed copy, please let us know.



We are continuing to track all of the Year 1 and Year 2 tricky words that children need to know how to spell and use in their writing. Please help your child to learn the words that have not been retained. We will be doing another check the after the Easter break. We will send home their results so that you can support them. The words are checked in the context of written work and dictations rather than spelling tests each week.

You will receive a weekly update on Google Classroom of the sounds and words that have been learned each week (apart from the first week of every half term which is an assessment and review week) so that you can play games and practise these with your child. These are wording the children will have been taught – we want them to show you how confident they are!

Maths



Mymaths homework is set each Friday and is linked to the work we are learning in class. The children can do each piece as many times as they wish and can try to improve their scores.

TT Rockstars can also be used to support number fluency as well as

the

White Rose app '**One Minute Maths**' which is excellent for number fluency.





Coats!

Please ensure that your child comes to school with an appropriate coat. Playtime is outside whenever possible, even if it is cold or there is a light drizzle. Please also ensure that all items of clothing (including gloves, hats etc) are clearly names.



We begin March with the value of Tolerance . We will learn in our assemblies about showing tolerance to others.



Thursday 7th March – World Book Day (Reading Festival Day)
Friday 15th March – Comic Relief Day – A PJ day!
Thursday 28th March – Sing Off day! End of term

Great books to read together with the theme of Tolerance

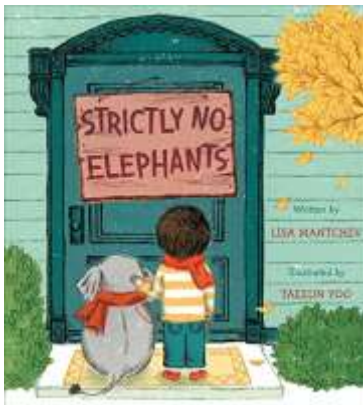


All Are Welcome lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, they are welcome in their school.

Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms.

Join one little pigeon as she sets out on a journey to spread a message of tolerance around the world.

Featuring the lyrics of John Lennon's iconic song and illustrations by the award-winning artist Jean Jullien, this poignant and timely picture book dares to imagine a world at peace.



Today is Pet Club Day. There will be cats and dogs and fish, but *strictly no elephants* are allowed.

The Pet Club doesn't understand that pets come in all shapes and sizes, just like friends.

Now it is time for a boy and his tiny pet elephant to show them what it means to be a true friend.

HOW TO CONTACT US



We love working in partnership with our parents. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional advice. Please catch us on the gate at the end of the day once all children have been dismissed safely or email us on

Year2@prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk (we will get back to you as soon as we can –

please note we do not have email open during teaching hours for safeguarding

