

Curriculum Newsletter – autumn term 1st Half 2018



Welcome to Year 2, we hope you have had a lovely holiday and are looking forward to the new school year ahead. As the pupils settle into Year 2 they will be making steps to grow as independent learners. As the oldest children within Key Stage 1, there will be a focus on responsible behaviours and how to be a fantastic role model to others. For this academic year we will be placing a high focus on speaking and listening, in particular 'being the teacher'. We would encourage you to discuss your child's learning at home giving them every opportunity to teach you what they have learnt that week in school. This half term the children will be astronauts as they set off on a 'Mission to Mars' – our topic. We hope that this theme will ignite the children's imaginations and send their learning to stratospheric heights. 'It's one small step for a pupil, one giant leap for Ark Atwood!'

Achieving Success

PSHE and Mindfulness

PSHE this half term will be introducing some philosophical ideas! Children will explore questions related to ethical actions and emotions. How we work together as a school community, developing a positive sense of themselves and others, as well as the reasons behind our actions. Students will engage in mindfulness sessions to further develop self-awareness and support resilience. This links to our values and also our approach to positive behaviour self-management amongst peers.

Mathematics

In Year 2 Mathematics Mastery will begin in autumn term studying number within 100. Our main focus will be number sense, place value and calculating to problem solve. We will consolidate and review our knowledge of numbers within 100, counting forward and backward, reading and writing them. Skip counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10. Adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers, within equations and word problems. We will also cover measurement, specially length and graphs. Maths Meetings are high energy sessions involving chants and songs to consolidate the children's mathematical learning. Furthermore, we have added a mental maths lesson to our Friday maths slot to encourage children to choose the most efficient strategies when calculating.

Physical Education

In P.E this term the children will be continuing to develop their all-round physical ability by concentrating on invasion games where aliens and astronauts will be competing. Children will be building up their strength and stamina with warm up workouts, learning about how these exercises keep us healthy and fit. In the playground during break spatial awareness and successful / sensible games involving movement and skill will be a focus.

Other Useful Information Every Friday pupils will now be taking part in Salsa lessons! Salsa has been a real hit with the children over the years and we are sure that this year's cohort will be ready to embrace the rhythm. For both classes, P.E will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. **Children will need to come into school already in the correct Atwood P.E kit on Wednesdays only.** When after school clubs begin, students wear uniform and bring any required change of clothes for after school. Our strength as a school community and a Key Stage rests in great home / school communication so any issues as they arise or questions, let Miss Sew or Mr Townsend know. Mr Townsend is always available in person and via email as Key Stage lead. We are looking forward to a fantastic year!

Literacy

For the Autumn Term our topic will be based around the idea of a 'Mission to Mars' – we will mix non-fiction knowledge of our solar system and an astronaut's life with two key stories based on real life space heroes! The Darkest Dark is based on Chris Hadfield (astronaut) early life and how he overcame fears of the dark. While 'Margaret and the Moon' describes how Margaret Hamilton saved the first lunar landing with her software engineering. The end goal of the Topic will be to produce a pamphlet titled 'What is life like on Mars for you?' where students will display their scientific knowledge alongside science-fiction. There will be an explicit daily teaching of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) taught daily through phonics and guided reading. Lastly, there will be a large focus on handwriting and presentation throughout the term as children begin to join letters and much coveted Pen Licences will be awarded throughout the year.

Topic

Topic will be preparing us for our journey to Mars, from how rockets work, solar facts, life in space and next steps for humanity among the stars! Our trip to the Science Museum will provide a great hands-on experience of space age paraphernalia. They will use their research skills to imagine how people could settle Mars and what life would be like on another planet – what challenges will space explorers face and how can we use our scientific knowledge and problem solving skills to imagine solutions.

Music and the Arts

Children will be developing their musical appreciation – listening and responding to a range of genres from classical to modern, inspired by space. Art will include design and technology as we hone our craft skills to create sun catchers, planets and rockets. We're sure that their creations will be out of this world! Performing arts will feature drama too.

Aspiration & Achievement – Scholarship – Perseverance – Integrity – Respect & Responsibility – Enthusiasm