Year 2: Autumn Term 2026

Curriculum Newsletter

Key Texts:

The scarecrows wedding (whole school focus), Gruffalo, Owl babies, two brothers and a chocolate factory.

✍️ English:

This term, children will develop their writing by using adjectives and noun phrases to add detail, writing simple sentences accurately, and joining ideas with words such as *and*, *but* and *or*. They will practise spelling common Year 1 and 2 words, applying spelling rules, and using correct punctuation. Pupils will also explore different text types while improving handwriting through accurate letter formation, consistent sizing, spacing and neat presentation.

🔢 Mathematics:

Children will:

- Develop place value knowledge to 100, including counting, comparing and ordering numbers.
- Practise counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s.
- Build confidence with addition and subtraction using mental and written methods.
- Solve a range of mathematical problems and reasoning challenges.
- Identify, describe and sort 2-D and 3-D shapes.
- Explore shape properties, including sides, vertices, faces, edges and lines of symmetry.

🌍 Geography: Bright Lights, Big City!

Children will compare Wall Heath with Birmingham by:

- Using maps, atlases, globes and aerial photographs.
- Identifying human and physical features.
- Learning about villages, towns and cities.
- Using directional and compass language.
- Creating simple maps with symbols and keys.

Key Question: How is Birmingham different from where we live?

🐾 Science – Animals Including humans

Children will:

- Identify mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.
- Explore carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.
- Investigate life cycles and animal growth.
- Learn about the human body and five senses.

They will develop scientific enquiry skills through practical investigations.

🔥 History – Why Do We Celebrate Bonfire Night? Children will learn about the Gunpowder Plot, Guy Fawkes and the origins of Bonfire Night.

🕌 We think critically in Religious Education:

Children will explore:

- **Who is Muslim and how do they live?**
- **Why does Christmas matter to Christians?**

🍫 History – How Did John Cadbury Change the Lives of People in Bournville?

Children will discover how John Cadbury improved workers' lives and learn why he remains an important historical figure, including a visit to Cadbury World.

They will learn about beliefs, celebrations, values and traditions within both faiths.

💗 Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

Children will:

- Celebrate similarities and differences.
- Build positive friendships.
- Learn about kindness, respect and cooperation.
- Understand the difference between safe and unsafe secrets and know how to seek help.

💻 Computing

Children will:

- Learn how information is organised online.
- Understand basic internet safety.
- Create and follow simple algorithms.
- Debug simple programs and develop problem-solving skills.

🎵 Music

Children will explore rhythm and pulse through singing, movement and percussion. They will also take part in a Christmas Singing Project to develop performance confidence and expressive singing.

Physical Education

Children will:

- Create and perform simple dance sequences.
- Develop throwing, catching, rolling and dribbling skills.
- Use simple tactics and improve coordination and control.

🎨 Art

Through *Lighting Up the Night Sky*, children will:

- Explore primary colours and colour mixing.
- Create artwork inspired by fireworks and night-time scenes using drawing, painting and collage. ✨🎨

🚚 Design and Technology

Children will design and make a moving Cadbury truck, learning about wheels, axles and simple mechanisms while developing their designing, making and evaluating skills. 🍫🚚

We look forward to an exciting term of learning and discovery with Year 2! ✨