

Kestrels class – Year 2

Curriculum Information - Autumn Term 2025-26



Welcome to the new school year! We have had a great start to the term and the children have settled brilliantly into the school routine. A brief summary of what the children will be learning about in the Autumn Term is given below.

Over the course of this term, our over-arching topics will be ‘The Great Fire of London’ and ‘What a Wonderful World’, which will both be taught creatively across the curriculum.

English

The English programme of study is divided into three core types of texts: Narrative, Non-Fiction and Poetry. These are studied in a variety of ways throughout the year and the children will be learning to plan, write, edit and publish their own work. This half term’s class book is *The Great Fire of London* by Izzi Howell. During the second half of this term the class book will be *Big City Atlas* by Maggie Li.

Mathematics

This term the areas of study will include place value, addition and subtraction, and shape. We will be using a range of practical resources and schemes of work to do this, including White Rose Maths Hub and Classroom Secrets. Our focus will be developing fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills necessary to be proficient in the Year 2 curriculum.

Science

In our first topic, ‘Living Things in their Habitats’, the children will learn about a variety of habitats and the plants and animals that live there. They will learn to tell the difference between things that are living, dead and have never been alive, and apply this in a range of contexts. They will also make observations of a local habitat and the creatures that live there, investigating conditions in local microhabitats and how they affect the minibeasts found within them. In our topic on ‘Uses of Everyday Materials’, the children will learn about the uses of everyday materials including wood, plastic, metal, glass, brick, paper and cardboard. The children will then go on to compare the suitability of different everyday materials for different purposes. They will explore how objects made of some everyday materials can change shape and how the recycling process is able to reuse some everyday materials numerous times.

R.E.

In the first half of the term, we will be investigating the question: ‘Who should you follow?’ The children will find out about religious leaders and how and why they are followed. During the second half of term, the children will explore the variety of ways people can express beliefs by what they wear and the different meanings behind symbols.

History

During the first half-term, the children will be learning about the key events of the Great Fire of London and develop an understanding of the ways in which we can find out about the past.

Geography

Our geography topic is titled 'What a Wonderful World'. The children will be learning about the location of countries, continents and oceans of the world in relation to the position of the United Kingdom and their own locality.

PSHE

This term our focus will be on the topic of relationships. The class will explore the following topics:

- *Families and Friendship*: making friends; feeling lonely and getting help
- *Safe relationship*: managing secrets; resisting pressure and getting help; recognising hurtful behaviour
- *Respecting ourselves and others*: recognising things we have in common and differences; playing and working cooperatively; sharing opinions

P.E.

On Thursday afternoons, Kestrels will be participating in an indoor Gymnastics lesson. The focus of Monday's outdoor lessons will be Invasion Games.

Art

For the first half of term the children will be learning about Drawing and will investigate a range of different mark makers and surfaces to make different types of drawings. After half-term our topic will be Painting and the children will develop painting techniques using different brush strokes and make imaginative responses to stories through the use of colour.

Computing

The term will start with learning about online safety. Then we move onto further learning about 'Turtle Logo'. The children will create, test and debug algorithms for shapes and also routes around the school in preparation for using the commands in online programs.

Design and Technology

Our topic is titled 'Pirate Paddy's Packed Lunch Problems'. It will give the children the opportunity to develop their understanding of structures through the exploration of different types of lunch boxes. They will generate their own designs, following the design criteria given at the beginning of the project, and go on to create models from reclaimed materials. They will also investigate how structures can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable. At the end of the unit, they will test their product and suggest further improvements.

Music

Year 2 will be studying musical features and expression. They will learn the importance of pitch, rhythm, tonality, texture, dynamics and tempo, and will study how these musical features can affect mood and the way we feel about the music.

Forest School

This half term we shall give the children the opportunity to explore drawing and painting using natural materials. They will also observe the changes that Autumn brings and discuss how natural habitats might change over this season. We shall continue to allow them to grow their practical outdoor skills, and to learn through outdoor play.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Monday and is due in the following Monday. It is an extension of the work being completed in class and it will be explained to the children. Reading books and Reading records will continue to be taken home each night. The children are expected to read at home every day to an adult who should check their understanding of vocabulary and comprehension. Please encourage your child to complete their written homework in their best handwriting using pencil unless otherwise specified.

Tasks	Year 2 Homework Expectations
Daily Reading	✓
Daily Spellings practice	✓
Daily mental arithmetic practice	✓
English	Alternate weeks - 20mins
Mathematics	Alternate weeks - 20mins
Science	Optional - at teacher discretion
Other	Optional - at teacher discretion

Weekly timetable

Below is the planned weekly timetable for Kestrels class. Please note, however, there will be variations to this timetable as necessary.

	Monday - KT		Tuesday - ES/CB	Wednesday - KT	Thursday - KT	Friday - KT
8:30-8:45	Playground		Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
8:45-8:55	Registration Morning Work		Registration Morning Work	Registration Morning Work	Registration Morning Work	Registration Morning Work
8:55-9:15	Phonics		Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics
9:15-10:00	English (Spelling)		English	English	English	English
10:00-10:15	Collective Worship		Collective Worship	Collective Worship	Collective Worship	
10:15-10:30	B		R	E	A	K
10:30-10:45	Handwriting		Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting
10:45-11:45	Maths		Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths (Mental arithmetic)
11:45-12:15	Guided reading		Guided reading	History	R.E.	D.T.
12:15-1:15	L		U	N	C	H
1:15-2:00	LIBRARY	Computing	Forest School	History	P.E. indoor	Science
2:00-3:00		P.E. outdoor		PSHE	Art	
						Collective Worship

General

Please remember to supply your child with appropriate clothing for the weather each day. We also encourage the children to drink lots of water throughout the day. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle labeled with their name to school each day. Library books will be changed once a week on Mondays.

I am really looking forward to the coming year and working with your children. If, at any point, you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs K Tyzack
Kestrels Class Teacher