

# Year 2 Newsletter - Autumn 2017.



Dear parents and carers,  
This term our topic is **Superheroes**. Below, is a breakdown of the main themes the children will be learning about over the next term.



## English

In Year 2, we have a reading scheme called Project X. Over the next few weeks we are learning about the team of mini superheroes from the books. You can find out about these characters here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSyuPryftnw> We will then move on to other superhero stories such as Traction Man. We are currently assessing reading and will send home more information about book bands soon. Please encourage your child to read a few pages each night. We have a selection of chapter books in school which the children can borrow to read themselves or to have as a bedtime story.

## Spelling

We've been asked by parents in the past how they can help with their child's spellings. There is a much bigger emphasis on spelling in the new curriculum and end of Year 2 tests.

We are sending home word lists in a spelling book for your child to practise at home. We don't do spelling tests but will give the children time each week to practise the spellings on the lists.

You may find that your child can already spell some of the words in the set. In this case, concentrate on joining the words instead. You can find more information about handwriting on our school website on the Parents' page.

The best way to practise spelling is any variation on 'Look, cover, write, check'. This means, look at the correct spelling, cover it up and then have a go at writing it themselves. Check it's correct and if so write it again. Research shows children have to write a word correctly over 100 times for it to become 'known' so games such as 'how many times can you write it in a minute?' are really useful. Once they are getting better at a word it's useful to write it in the context of a sentence. For example, if they are practising 'because', they could write, 'I am excited because it's my birthday next week.'

## Maths

We will concentrate on understanding the place value of two digit numbers (knowing that the 3 in 32 is actually 30) and number bonds (all the different ways you can make numbers). Games involving the quick addition of two numbers such as card or dice games really help with this. We will then move onto addition and subtraction and how they relate to one another. We will also be learning about measures, so any practise you can give your children at home of reading scales would be really helpful, e.g. weighing ingredients when baking, or using a ruler or tape measure.

## Science

We will be learning about animals and the main features of living things. We will learn about "Animal Superheroes" and looking at the clever ways animals have adapted to their habitats and the special skills they use to hunt, protect themselves and move around.





Art and Design Technology.

In Art, the children are going to learn to draw Superheroes using a variety of media to sketch and mark make. In DT, we will make superheroes with moving parts and look at different ways of joining.



Humanities

Our Geography focus is on learning about the seven continents of the world and the five main oceans. Children will learn to use an atlas to locate places on a map and to find information about different places.

Later in the term we will learn about Special People in RE.

PE

Besides swimming which will be led by Mr Mortimer in both classes, the children will develop movement skills, improve ball skills (throwing, catching, kicking, rolling and trapping) and develop their game skills including team work and following simple rules.

Computing.

This term Mrs Ruddick will teach computing while the other class goes swimming. We are going to learn to create algorithms (simple instructions). One of the apps we use to do this is Scratch Junior, which is a free app. You might like to download this at home and play around with it.

Music

Mrs Buckley teaches music in both classes and this term will teach the children to play ocarinas as well as learning new songs.

Real Heroes

We are interested in teaching children about real 'heroes'. People that do amazing things in their work on a day to day basis. We are interested in hearing from anyone who would be willing to talk to the children about their special jobs. Do you know a nurse, fire fighter or army officer (or anyone else who you think could be a real hero) who would like to come in and talk to the children? If so, please see you child's class teacher.

Learning heroes.

We want to encourage children to be learning heroes. We think learning heroes show determination and never give up even if they sometimes get stuck or make mistakes. They also work well as a team and look out for one another. We look forward to celebrating these skills in our celebration assembly.

A few dates for your diaries: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October is the first of our half termly "Book and a Biscuit" session at 3pm. Come into school and share a story with your child. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> is Superhero day where children can come dressed as a Superhero or real life hero of

their choice. Lots more information to follow soon. If you have any queries, pop in and see us and we'll arrange a time to see you.

Best wishes,

Mrs Ruddick, Mr Mortimer and Mrs Buckley.

