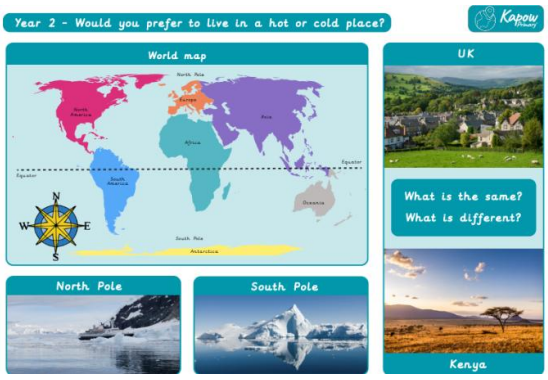
Year 2 Autumn 2 Newsletter 2026
Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?

Dear Parents and Guardians,

All the children have settled into Year 2 and adapted well to the new routines and expectations. We are really proud of how hard they are all working. As we start our second half term, we hope that you find the following information useful in supporting your child's learning at home. Our topic this term is called **Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?**

Geography

As geographers, we will name and locate the seven continents on a world map. We will also locate the equator and North and the South Poles. After looking at some different countries we will describe some similarities and differences between hot and cold places. During the topic we will investigate the weather, writing about it using key vocabulary and recognise the features of hot and cold places. We will locate some countries with hot or cold climates on a world map.



Community Values

This half term the Community Values we will be focusing on are Peace and Hope. We will be promoting these values in our assemblies, and someone from each class will be awarded a Bankfoot Star certificate every Friday for putting Peace or Hope into practice in our school.

British Values

We will learn about the history of **Remembrance Day**. We will use the time to remember the sacrifices made by those who fought for our freedom. Democracy is one of the values they fought to protect, and we remember and respect that. They will think about soldiers and civilians during times of conflict following laws and rules, even in challenging circumstances. Remembrance Day is a time to appreciate the importance of laws in maintaining peace and order. Finally, there will be a discussion to emphasise the importance of freedom and the sacrifices made by individuals in the past to secure these liberties. Remembrance Day serves as a reminder of the value of personal freedom.



PSHE

Connecting with Others: How Can I Help Myself and Others Feel Happy and Safe? Pupils will explore what makes them and others unique and special. They will learn about the importance of positive relationships with friends, family and classmates, and how kindness, respect and understanding can help everyone feel happy, safe and included. Pupils will also explore ways in which they can support and care for one another.

Science

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As scientists, this half term our learning is all about Living Things and their habitats. The children will explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive. They will learn how to identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited. They will describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants. The children will learn how to identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats and finally they will learn how to describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.



Religious Education

As spiritual thinkers this unit of work is called “How can we make good choices?”. It starts with a consideration of what makes a happy classroom, and why rules are important. The children will then study moral codes from Christianity and Islam including the Ten Commandments and the Five Pillars of Islam. They also look at non-religious stories.



Health and Fitness advisors

The children will continue to develop their fitness through two different areas this half term. They will work on gymnastics, where they will learn and develop fundamental movement skills. These skills increase a child’s confidence and competence and include travelling, balancing, rolling, and jumping. The children will explore and form simple sequences of different actions, moving safely, changing direction and speed.

This half term the children will also be introduced to dodgeball. The children should improve their ability to move fluently by changing speed and direction. They should continue to develop key fundamental movement skills, both with and without a ball, improving their ability to move in a safe, controlled way. In our lessons the children will develop basic ball control including catching a large ball and aiming towards a target and gives opportunities to explore moving the ball in different ways.

Computing

This term the children will revisit what algorithms are and learn how they are implemented as programs on digital devices; and how programs execute by following precise and unambiguous instructions. They will then create and debug simple programs. Use logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programs.



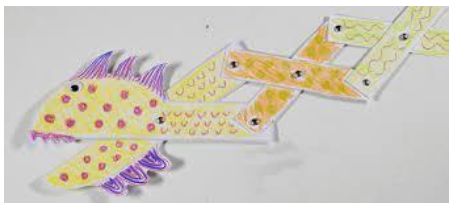
Music

During this half term, pupils will take part

in a Class Jam, exploring a range of classroom instruments and their musical origins. They will discover how these instruments are used in different cultural and festive settings around the world. Students will learn a variety of rhythmic patterns and techniques to perform in group musical pieces.

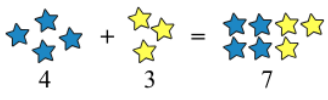
Design and Technology

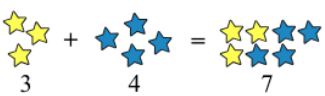
In design and technology the children will be able to design a moving monster. As part of their learning they will be able to identify the correct terms for levers, linkages and pivots. They will create two monster designs and evaluate their two designs against the design criteria. Using this information they will select and assemble materials to create their planned monster features. Finally they will assemble the monster to their linkages without affecting their functionality.



Mathematicians

This half term we will be focussing on showing that addition of two numbers can be done in any order (commutative) and subtraction of one number from another cannot. They will work on recognising and using the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction to check calculations and solve missing number problems.





Reading

We will continue to read accurately by blending the sounds in words that contain the graphemes taught so far, especially recognising alternative sounds for graphemes. We will read further common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound and where these occur in the word. In our comprehension work the children will discuss and clarify the meanings of words, linking new meanings to known vocabulary discussing their favourite words and phrases.

Writing

During our writing tasks we will be continuing to focus on learning to spell common exception words.
We will consider what they are going to write before beginning by:
planning or saying out loud what they are going to write about, writing down ideas and/or key words, including new vocabulary, encapsulating what they want to say, sentence by sentence.
Handwriting will continue each week as we work on joining our letters accurately.

Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition – Opening the Door to Imagination

This half term, pupils will take part in a whole-school writing competition inspired by a tiny door hidden within a snow-covered tree. With an unusual footprint and curious objects scattered nearby, who might live behind the door, and what secrets could it hold? Perhaps a magical kingdom, an extraordinary miniature world or a place where anything is possible lies beyond it! Using this intriguing stimulus, pupils will explore their imaginations, develop their own interpretations and create a piece of writing in a genre of their choice. We look forward to seeing the creative pieces of

writing our young writers produce and celebrating their achievements at the end of term.



My Happy Mind

Celebrate

During this module, your children will learn all about the importance of character strengths.

Key learning points include:

- We all have character strengths and we use them in different situations, we can also call these our superhero strengths.
- What the different character strengths are and what they mean.
- How children can use their strengths to be their best selves
- How to practise using these different strengths.

Attendance, punctuality and commitment

Our class target is to try and achieve as near to 100% attendance and punctuality each half term. School is open for children to access from 7.50am each morning if they would like to attend breakfast club. The cloakroom door opens at 8.05am.

Learn at home

This half term your child will be provided with work to complete at home using work prepared in their Learn at Home book or work to be accessed on their chromebook.

The work will be set on a Friday and needs to be completed and brought back to school on a Monday morning. We will make sure your child has enough battery charge to complete the work.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will take place from Monday 16th - Friday 20th November, with the theme: Break the Silence.

Odd Socks Day is taking place on Monday 16th November, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.



World Science Day

On Monday 10th November we'll be joining schools and communities around the world to celebrate World Science Day for Peace and Development. This year's theme is **"Common ground through science diplomacy"**.

The Science Gadget Shop is Coming!

To make the week even more memorable, we will be running a Science Gadget Shop packed with exciting pocket-money science curiosities, toys, and small experiments for the children to explore and purchase.

When: Gadgets will be available to buy throughout the week starting on the 10th of November.
Pricing & Details: We will send out a full list of available items and exact pricing closer to the time so you can plan ahead.

Forthcoming events

World Science Day: Monday 10th November
Odd Socks Day: Monday 16th November
Close for Christmas: Friday 18th December
Re-open: Monday 4th January

Weekly Reminders

- **PE:** PE lessons will take place every Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure your child has their PE kit on these days.
- **Spelling:** Our weekly spelling test will continue to take place every Wednesday.
- **Homework:** Homework will be collected and marked every Monday. Please ensure your child hands in their completed homework by Monday each week.
- **Reading:** We are placing a big focus on encouraging children to read more at home. We would really appreciate your support in listening to your child read regularly and adding comments to their reading journal.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. It really does make a difference to your child's learning and progress! If you have any questions, please do let us know and we will be more than happy to help.