



*Welcome to Year Two  
at Ad Astra Infant  
School*



# Meet the Teachers



Miss Clark  
Miss Davies



Mr Walters



Mr Baumber



# Meet the Teaching Assistants



*Mrs Steinwartz*



*Mrs Bailey*



*Mrs Luffman*



# Meet the Teaching Assistants



Miss Parker



Ms Tarasenko



# Home and school links



We really value your support

- United with a common purpose – Children First
- Please volunteer to help on school trips if you are available
- Become a parent helper/reading volunteer (please see recent letter and join us for our parent volunteer workshop at 2:15 on 21<sup>st</sup> September in the school hall)
- Join and/or support our PTA

# Home and school links



*We want to support you too:*

- School run training sessions e.g. maths workshop
- Parents consultation evenings (twice a year)
- School website
- Pastoral Care Worker – Mrs Penfold
- If you have any concerns over your child then your first port of call is to contact your child's class teacher and then he/she will refer you to our Inclusion Leader, Mrs Chandler, if necessary.

# What have we done to help the children settle into Year 2?



- ✓ Adapted timetable for the first week back to include Growth Mindset activities and circle time.
- ✓ Opportunities for teachers to get to know the children.
- ✓ Same class systems as in Year 1 which are designed to encourage independence.
- ✓ During the next few weeks, there will be opportunities for teachers to carry out baseline assessments e.g. BB checks to inform our teaching and learning.
- ✓ Welcome to base meeting, including an opportunity to meet and see the class teacher and classroom.



# Assessment



In every year group, the children are regularly assessed. This informs the planning of the next step in their learning.

They are now being assessed in terms of meeting Age Related Expectations (ARE) and we have regular informal assessment points throughout the year.



# Integrated, progressive curriculum



We ensure that learning is purposeful, relevant and related to what the children already know, as well as preparatory for what they will learn in the future.

- ✓ We have 'Sparkly Starters' and 'Fab Finishes'.
- ✓ Objectives from different subjects are linked to our overarching topics.
- ✓ Subjects are mapped out progressively across EYFS, KS1 and KS2.
- ✓ Literacy is also linked to topics and our focus authors.
- ✓ Our curriculum is covered in interesting, memorable ways e.g. trips, visitors, artefacts etc.
- ✓ We carefully consider 'ways in' to ensure that the learning is accessible to everyone.

# Year 2 Topics



## Autumn Term

Art Attack  
(2 weeks)

Globetrotters  
(5 weeks)

Dazzling Dahl  
(6 weeks)

Sleigh Bells  
Ring!  
(1 week)

## Spring Term

Who's Afraid of the Big

Bad Wolf?  
(7 weeks)

Fire, Fire!  
(6 weeks)

Curriculum letters and  
key knowledge fact  
sheets shared for each  
topic

## Summer Term

Superheroes to the

Rescue!  
(6 weeks)

Where the Wild Things  
Are  
(6 weeks)

There are lots of  
transition activities in this  
topic.

# General timetable



- ✓ Drop off window – children are responsible for putting their own belongings away; handing in their reading record and changing their BB book on a Monday and Friday.
- ✓ We have daily, writing, reading, mathematics and phonics sessions.
- ✓ Most children are taught by their class teacher all day with the exception of phonics, which is taught in set groups.
- ✓ Daily reading includes our focus authors; library sessions and our STAR time challenge.
- ✓ Regular handwriting sessions teaching and practising cursive script which is a school focus.
- ✓ Foundation subjects (art, DT, geography and history) are taught progressively and are contextualised within topics.
- ✓ Some subjects are usually stand alone: computing, Science, Religion and Worldviews and PSHE sessions, which are taught on alternate weeks.
- ✓ Daily assemblies (as a class, year group or whole school).

# Indoor PE and Outdoor Games



Meerkats – Monday and Tuesday

Zebras – Wednesday and Thursday



Giraffes – Monday and Thursday

- PE kits should remain in school please and will be sent home at the end of each half term to be washed.
- Please ensure all items are named.
- No earrings on PE days please – children will either need to learn to take them out themselves or have them removed before school on these days.
- Consider appropriate clothing and footwear for all weathers and see uniform policy for more guidance. Having a suitable PE kit should be considered as part of preparing your child's uniform, and is essential for good safety.
- Please ensure long hair is always tied back.

# Handwriting

- A school focus – cursive script.



- Correct formation of all letters is required to be assessed as meeting the Year 2 Age Related Expectations (ARE).
- All letters must be consistently correctly formed, sized and spaced before learning to join.
- Discrete handwriting sessions are taught alongside a focus on this in Literacy sessions.
- We celebrate handwriting with each class by having a handwriter of the week where a certificate and sticker are given out.



# Homework and supporting your child

## Daily (at least three times a week)

- Reading BB book and recording this in the reading record

## Weekly

- Spellings (weekly)
- Numeracy and Literacy - linked to the learning in class

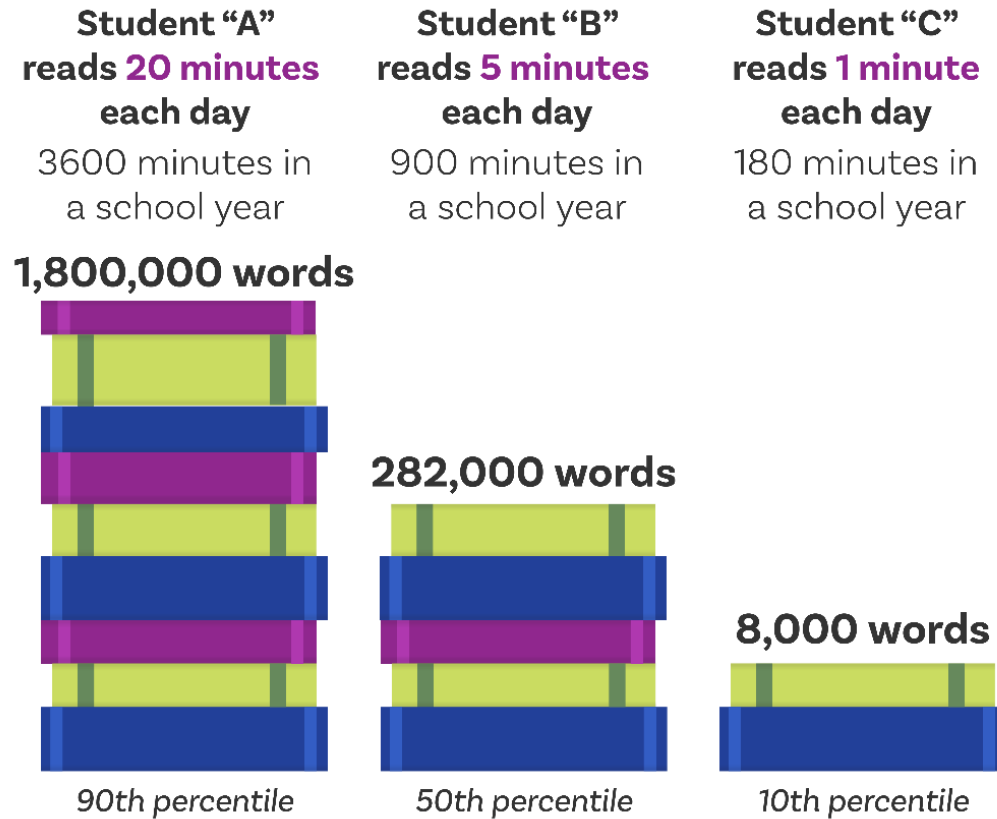
## Home Learning

- Information text, story, creative activity or research linked to the topic
- Children can choose what to do and how to present it.
- It will be displayed and shared with the class.

Most importantly, *HAVE FUN* with it!

# Reading

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



Reading is key to all learning.  
*'The best writers are always readers' (Pie Corbett)*



# How do we support your child's reading?

- ✓ Reading with adults in school (initially twice a week in school).
- ✓ Our school policy includes an expectation that all children will read at least 3 times a week at home. We will have reading opportunities on a Friday if this is not met.
- ✓ Usually a more challenging text will be read in school than the one that is sent home.
- ✓ Guided Reading/whole class sessions with a comprehension focus.
- ✓ Focus on phonics - sounding out and blending – and fluency.
- ✓ All 1:1 reading has a focus on helping children to use their phonics and to not rely on the pictures.

# How can you support your child's reading?



- ✓ We encourage reading for enjoyment, which means a child can read a book a few times if they particularly love it.
- ✓ Regular use of library and taking books home to share and enjoy.
- ✓ Celebrating reading successes – Star Time/stickers for reader of the week (both for effort and improvement).
- ✓ Children are responsible for changing home reading books twice a week.
- ✓ Phonic word cards are sent home for some children to help them with their reading.






You can find this in the back of the reading records:

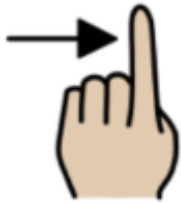
Strategies to help with reading




Hold the book the correct way.



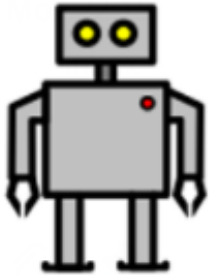
Turn the pages right to left.




Use your pointing finger.




Sound out words carefully.



Use robot arms to help you blend.



Look for the graphemes you know.



Break up longer words - covering with your hand.



# Fantastic events that we hope to enjoy in Year 2

- A walk around the local area
- A trip to Poole Quay
- Great Fire of London dress up and drama day
- Bread making
- Performance by a storyteller
- Puppet sewing
- Dazzling Dahl dress up day
- Trip to Moors Valley
- Leavers assembly/performance

...and many more!



# Whole school dressing up



Julia  
Donaldson  
Character Day  
— Autumn 1



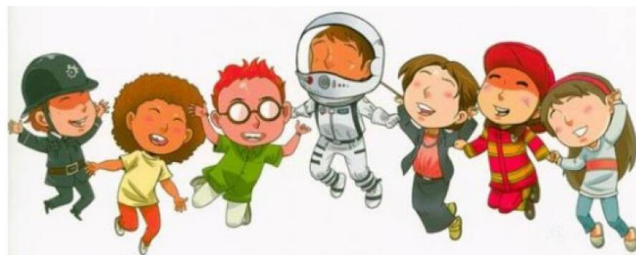
Children In  
Need —  
Autumn 2



World Book Day  
— Spring 1



Christmas  
Jumper Day —  
Autumn 2



When I grow up day  
— Summer 2



# Dressing up in Year Two



Dazzling Dahl  
Dress Up Day  
— Autumn 2



Great Fire of London Drama  
Day — Spring 2



Superheroes!  
— Summer 1



# We love Maths!

We aim to create confident mathematicians with fluency and reasoning skills.

- **Practise:** number bonds to 10, 20 and 100, doubling and halving numbers to 10 and 20, times tables, adding and subtracting, mental maths skills, telling the time, basic 2D/3D shapes and TT Rockstars
- **Play games:** Snakes and Ladders, Bingo, Dominoes, Monopoly
- **Real-life:** money, shopping, cooking, time, counting
- There will be a parent maths workshop later in the year



# Growth Mindset

## What Kind of Mindset Do You Have?



I can learn anything I want to.  
When I'm frustrated, I persevere.  
I want to challenge myself.  
When I fail, I learn.  
Tell me I try hard.  
If you succeed, I'm inspired.  
My effort and attitude determine everything.



I'm either good at it, or I'm not.  
When I'm frustrated, I give up.  
I don't like to be challenged.  
When I fail, I'm no good.  
Tell me I'm smart.  
If you succeed, I feel threatened.  
My abilities determine everything.

# Our Expectations



- ✓ 'Reach for the stars' behaviour reward system.
- ✓ Move up to the rainbow/shooting star by displaying RR behaviour, following our Class Charter, high quality learning, effort, positive values etc.
- ✓ Move down to the cloud if displaying unacceptable behaviour or not following our Class Charter. This will result in missing some of Sparkle Time on a Friday.
- ✓ Class reward system – champions working together with common purpose.
- ✓ Stickers – celebrate success and ensure that positives are regularly noted e.g. Rights Respecting role models.
- ✓ School certificates and shout outs.

# We are Gold!

RR accreditation –Gold Level

RR continues to underpin our day-to-day interactions and teaching, as well as behaviour management strategies and approaches. Children are taught about their rights from EYs and they are a cornerstone of our school philosophy.

We have also been awarded Gold Level in the All Together Anti-Bullying Programme.



# Class Charters

We have the *right* to ...

- ✓ Play and learn
- ✓ Share our views
- ✓ Be safe
- ✓ Respect and dignity

Plus lots more that the children suggest,  
related to other articles.



# School Uniform



Please can we remind you that all children should be wearing the correct school uniform every day:

- All jumpers and cardigans must have the school logo on them.
- All children must have sensible school shoes.
- Hair that is below the shoulder must be fully tied up.
- Hair ties that are worn to school must be a muted colour or green and **small in size**.
- Trainers must be worn for PE/games - not plimsolls please.

# Attendance



Being at school, on time, is vital for your child's achievement; wellbeing and wider development.

In 2019, primary school children in KS2, who did not achieve EXS for reading, writing and maths, missed, on average, 4 more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard.

The impact of poor attendance on children's education and success is immense.



# Reminders...



- Please be aware that we have children in the school with nut allergies. We are a 'nut aware' school. Please avoid including any products with nuts in packed lunches etc.
- If your child cycles or scoots to school then they must wear a helmet – safety is of the utmost importance to us all. Please make sure they always dismount when on the school site too.
- Please ensure children are provided with a water bottle each day, and also bring in their reading records.



*Parent Teachers  
Association (PTA)*

*'Friends of Ad Astra'*

# PTA Events



AGM – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 5pm in the school hall

*Thank you for coming.*

*Please do visit your  
child's teacher in their  
new classroom.*

