



# Year 2

## Curriculum Update

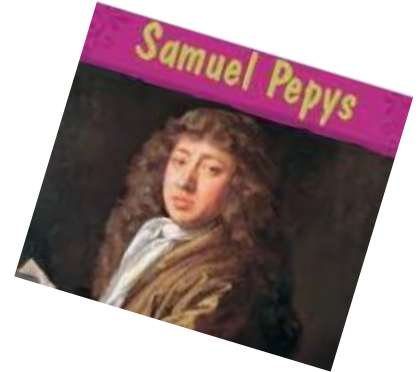
### Spring Term 2026

Miss Lucy Robinson (2 Mini Grey)  
Mrs Amy Wade/Mrs Gemma Sharpe (2 Sophie Henn)  
Mrs Rachael Macdonald/Mrs Sarah Bonsor (2 Quentin Blake)

*At RAB we have used our extensive knowledge of what engages and interests children to create our own theme-based curriculum based on children's books.*

#### Themes

During this Spring Term in Year 2 we will be following the themes: **Fire, Fire! (1<sup>st</sup> half term)** and **Remarkable Rainforests! (2<sup>nd</sup> half term)**. All our topic work will follow these themes, enabling us to create truly cross-curricular learning. In the first half of the term, we will be learning all about the Great Fire of London and will explore the diary of Samuel Pepys. After half term we will explore the layers of the rainforest in Geography and our English lessons will be based around books from other cultures.



#### English

In the first half of Spring Term, the children will be exploring recounts. They will learn about Samuel Pepys and the historical events he recorded in 1666. After exploring features of a diary, the children will write their own, using their historical knowledge about the Great Fire of London. Children will continue to consolidate their understanding of coherent sentences, conjunctions, expanded noun phrases and punctuation. Children will also write their own disaster tale, based on the Great Fire. In the second half of Spring Term, children will explore non-fiction texts (which they have met before in Autumn). Children will write their own non-fiction book about the layers of the rainforest, using learning from their Geography unit.

Children will continue to have discrete Spelling lessons, where specific spelling rules and patterns are taught and learnt. Children will learn how to apply suffixes and spell Year 2 common exception words. Whole class Guided Reading sessions will be continuing this term. The children are learning key skills through our VIPERS to help them answer questions about a text. Children will begin using their Predict (P) and Explain (E) skills. This half term the children will start to use specific joins in their writing, we call this cursive. The children will develop specific handwriting skills during taught lessons to enable them to join particular letters accurately and correctly.

#### Mathematics

In Mathematics, children will continue to learn about money, specifically making amounts, solving word problems, and finding change. Children will begin to learn about multiplication and division, as well as practising their counting in 2s, 5s and 10s (which is an expected requirement at the end of Year 2). After this, the children will explore measurement, looking at mass, capacity, length, and temperature. Your child will continue to have access to NumBots and will also be able to start using Times Table Rockstars (their log-ins will soon be provided in their reading records). These short games are fantastic and can help children to develop their subitising skills, recall of number bonds, mental addition and subtraction skills and times table recall. Children will continue to have four discrete Maths fluency sessions each week. This half term, they will be exploring 'Doubles and Near Doubles'. This strategy will support children to use their knowledge of doubles to solve near double equations – e.g. knowing that 4+4 can



be used to calculate 4+5. After half term, they will explore 'Number Neighbours' – this strategy will support children to efficiently calculate equations like 9-8 rather than counting back on their fingers.

### **Science**

In Science the children are taught which discipline they are using. They might come home saying they have been a biologist, a physicist, or a chemist. During the first half term the children will be physicists as they explore materials found within school. They will use the working scientifically skills of comparing, collecting and recording data. In the second half term the children will become biologists when they build upon their knowledge of animals. Working as biologists they will explore a range of life cycles. They will develop their scientific skills of identifying, classifying and will suggest ways to find answers to their questions.

### **History & Geography**

In the first half term the children will learn about the Great Fire of London, beginning their unit with a REAL fire on the playground! The children will learn about why the fire spread so quickly and how it was put out. They will compare firefighting equipment from 1666 to firefighting equipment now. In Geography, in the first half term, the children will be looking at physical and human features and they will also compare Saffron Walden to London. After half term the children will explore rainforests and their location in relation to the equator. They will explore the layers of the rainforest and the living things located there.

### **Design Technology & Art**

In Design Technology, children will be exploring mechanisms, wheels, and axels to make their own toy fire engine. Children will be taught how to safely use a small handsaw to create their axel out of wooden dowel, which is very exciting!

In Art, children will learn about the work of Henri Rousseau, and how different shades of green can be combined to produce a piece of art. They will explore his famous painting 'Tiger' and recreate their own rainforest scene using watercolour paints. After this, the children will explore printing, and will print their own leaf patterns.

### **Music & PE**

All the Year 2 children will continue to have weekly Music lessons with a music specialist teacher or their own class teacher. The children will learn to hold and play the recorder. The children will learn to play notes B A and G confidently. They will learn to play in time to the pulse and to breathe in the correct places. In P.E. the children will complete short gym and dance units with their teachers as well as working on their physical and creative PE skills with the PE team teachers. The children will also start to have swimming lessons on a Friday at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre. Further information about swimming has been sent out by the office via parent mail. The children will also enjoy gymnastic and dance lessons in school throughout the term.

### **PSHE/Religious Education**

The children will continue to have weekly PSHE sessions. Over the term the children will focus on Family and Friends and then Financial Capabilities. Family and Friends aims to develop the children's ability to describe some ways friends might act or behave, recognising the diversity in friendships and that friendship patterns change. They will consider the importance of telling the truth in order to build their friendships on firm foundations. They will address strategies for coping with difficult situations in friendships. They will begin to learn about their rights to personal space and to explore their own boundaries, starting to understand about giving and getting consent in friendships. Financial Capabilities will focus on helping the children to understand what money is, where it might come from and that it is a finite resource, which we can use in a variety of ways. They will explore the difference between needs and wants and the choices spending money might involve. They will consider how the choices we make might affect ourselves and others. They will explore what a charity is and what it might do.

In R.E. the children will be completing two human and social science units over the term. In the first half term, the children will be learning about how Christians belong to their faith family. The children will identify some Christian symbols and artefacts as well as look at how Christian beliefs impact on their worship and sense of belonging. This then links in identifying different ways Christians show they

belong to their faith family. After half term, the children will learn about how Jewish people celebrate Passover (Pesach). They will learn that Passover (Pesach) is a Jewish festival. The children will be able to identify ways in which Passover can have an impact on Jewish daily life and family. They will also identify evidence of religion and belief, specifically focussing on the local area.

### **Computing**

In computing, the children will be looking at digital photography. They will learn what makes a good photograph and evaluate when portrait/landscape is needed. The children will learn about focal points and what to centre on when taking a photo. Children will use iPads and cameras to take their photos.

### **Classroom agreements**



The children continue to use the 6R's and understand their importance. They continue to earn house points which link to the 6R's. They also use the Zones of regulations and always follow their class charters and oracy agreements.

The **ZONES** of Regulation®

<b>BLUE ZONE</b> Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	<b>GREEN ZONE</b> Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	<b>YELLOW ZONE</b> Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	<b>RED ZONE</b> Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

### **Supporting your child's learning**

To support your child's learning there are a range of things you can do at home, making it fun and relevant for them:

- Read with and to your child regularly – whilst we believe it is important for the children to practising reading aloud to an adult daily, they also need to listen to good quality picture books being read to them as an opportunity to be exposed to texts that are currently beyond their own reading capability.
- Allow them to help around the house, using it as an opportunity to practise maths skills such as counting in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Practise recalling number bonds to ten and 20
- Support them to access NumBots and Spelling Shed
- Help them to practise spelling and phonic sounds or high frequency words.
- Engage your children in discussions about topical issues the world around them. There are specially produced newspapers for children as well as TV programmes such as 'Newsround'.
- Visit museums or famous landmarks linked to our themes.