

# Year 2

## Curriculum Update

### Summer Term

### 2026



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*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 Summer Term in Year 2 we will be following the theme of **Adventurers and Explorers!** All our topic work will follow this theme, enabling us to create opportunities for cross-curricular learning. We will be learning about a variety of explorers/adventurers, from Grace Darling to Matthew Henson. In the second half of term, we will be taking part in a bush craft and den-building day, and we will be going on a trip where we will be explorers for the day (letters to follow). The children will be learning about the environments where Emperors Penguins live and where Polar Bears live. They will also consider human's impact on their environment.

#### **English**

In English this term we will be following the book-based themes outlined above. To start with we will be using *The Great Explorer* (Chris Judge) to write a variety of setting and character descriptions. The children will be writing their own adventurous tale (based on Tom's from the story). We will continue to set high expectations, reminding children to use capital letters (including those for proper nouns), punctuation, conjunctions and expanded noun phrases (adjective, adjective, noun). We will spend a lot of time thinking about how we can make writing more engaging for the 'reader', giving our writing a purpose. We are continuing to teach specific handwriting joins, encouraging children to join their letters where necessary. Discrete spelling lessons will continue to expose the children to spelling rules, use of prefixes and suffixes, and aspects of punctuation and grammar. Whole Class Guided Reading sessions will continue for the children, four times a week. The children will be exposed to a variety of text and prose, to develop their fluency, understanding and comprehension of what they are reading. Children will continue to answer comprehension questions about what they have read using the VIPERS skills.

#### **Mathematics**

In Mathematics, the children will focus primarily on Fractions, Statistics, Geometry and Time. Each maths lesson begins with a retrieval task that supports the children to consolidate previous learning. Discrete Fluency sessions occur four times a week, supporting children to learn their 10s, 2s and 5s multiplication tables. As part of a focus on mental maths strategies the children will also continue to recall their number bonds to 10, 20 and 100.

Please support this by regularly making time to practise speedy recall of number facts and multiplication tables with your child. A good game aimed at developing speedy recall is 'Hit the Button': <http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>  
Don't forget, you can also log your child onto Times Table Rockstars using the details in their reading record. This is great for practising number fluency.



### **Science**

In Science, the children will explore themes on Habitats and Plants. They will learn about different habitats and the variety of animals and plants that live there. They will learn to tell the difference between things that are living, dead and things that have never been alive, and apply this in a range of contexts. Following this, we will shift to Plants. Children will observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants. They will find out and describe how plants need water, light, and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy. We will be planting seeds and bulbs in school, learning how to take good care of them and recording their growth.

### **History/Geography**

We start our summer term with a fabulous History unit, learning about brave explorers and adventurers and their legacy. We learn about Grace Darling, a brave heroine who saved many survivors from a shipwreck. We also learn about Matthew Henson, an African American explorer who ventured to the North Pole in 1909. In Geography, we will learn about the differences between the Arctic, Antarctica and the Sahara Desert. We locate these places on a map of the world and investigate how close they are to the north and south poles and the equator. We also learn about which countries are close to the poles and the equator. We will also discover which animals live in the Arctic, Antarctica and the Sahara Desert and investigate how they have adapted so that they can live in such cold and hot environments.

### **Design Technology & Art**

In DT this term, Year 2 will be designing and making a vegetable kebab. They will have the opportunity to try different cooked and raw vegetables and learn the correct and safe way to use a knife to cut and chop with. They will use peelers to peel, and graters to grate! They will of course then enjoy eating their delicious creation! In Art, the children will be looking at the work of Ted Harrison, an artist famous for his colourful landscape paintings. The children will be creating their own collages and woven pieces in the same style, using a variety of materials and textures.

### **Music & PE**

In PE the children will be developing their cricket skills and athletics skills in preparation for our Sports Day. They will continue their weekly swimming lessons on Fridays. In Music, the children will explore a variety of instruments and the sounds they make. The children will be taught how to play recorders and glockenspiels.

### **PSHE/Religious Education**

This term in PSHE (Personal, Social, & Health Education) we will be discussing the theme of personal safety and managing change. The children will think about changes that they have already experienced, and the children will understand that they have the right to feel safe at all times. They will identify feelings and know that they can always talk to someone. At the end of the first half term, the children will also complete their RSE unit with their class teacher (more details to follow). At the end of the first half term, the children will also complete their RSE unit with their class teacher (more details to follow). In RE we will be exploring a Philosophy unit, learning why people have different views about the idea of God.

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

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

- Listen to your child read at least three times per week and record this in their reading record.

- 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. The children will also bring home a library book every week.
- Allow them to help around the house, using it as an opportunity to practise maths skills such as counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Log children in to Spelling Shed and Times Table Rockstar
- 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 places that link to our themes.
- Play games and focus on taking turns.
- Encourage your child to try different vegetables in preparation for our vegetable kebab making.