



Year 2

Curriculum Update

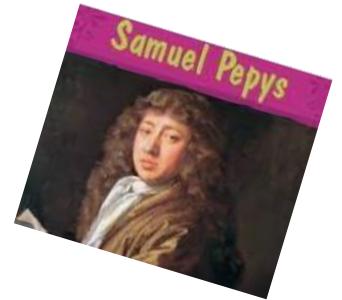
Spring Term 2024

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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 Spring Term in Year 2 we will be following the themes: **Fire, Fire! (1st half term)** and **Remarkable Rainforests! (2nd 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 the book, The Kapok Tree.



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 begin 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 join their writing, we call this cursive. The children will develop specific handwriting skills during taught lessons to enable them to join their letters.

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 Times Table Rockstars (their log ins are provided in their reading records). These short games are fantastic and can help children to develop their subitising skills, recall of number bonds and mental addition and subtraction skills.



Science

In Science the children will be 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 use a small handsaw to create their axel out of wooden dowel, which is very exciting!

In Art, children will learn about 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, the children will explore printing, and print their own leaf patterns.

Music & PE

All the Year 2 children will continue to have weekly Music lessons. 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 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 Diversity and Communities and Drug Education. Diversity and Communities aims to develop the children's sense of personal identity and self-worth and teaches them to consider and respect the needs and views of others. They will learn about different groups and cultures within their class community and about the importance of identifying and challenging stereotypes. Drug education will focus on safety around medicines and household substances. The children will learn about the positive uses of medicines and important roles that carers and health professionals have in helping us to use medicines safely. 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®

BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	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 and multiplication facts for the 2-, 5- and 10-times tables
- Support them to access NumBots and Times Table Rockstars
- 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.