

## Welcome to Year 2!

I very much hope you enjoy hearing about our Autumn Term learning and seeing some photos of the class during their first term in Year 2. The children have worked so hard and made amazing progress, we are so proud of all of them.

## English

Our Year 2 English journey began with a focus on speaking and listening. The children learnt to recite a poem clearly and with expression to hold the attention of their peers. Next, they identified the characteristic features of a riddle poem and wrote their own animal riddles. The children made a class book of riddles to share with their peers. Alongside this the children's SPAG journey began



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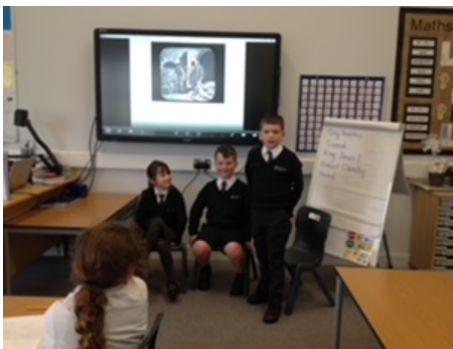
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with a focus on sentences and speaking ideas in complete sentences before writing. They all contributed to toolkits to guide and support their writing.



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The children's second theme, Through the Keyhole involved organising their writing into chunks to create an adventure story about toys which come alive at midnight, based on our school trip to Lanhydrock House and the toys we saw there in the nursery. The children evaluated modelled text, planned their writing and assessed their own and others' writing. The children's work was cross curricular and involved writing recounts, sequencing and creating glossaries for their science booklets. The children also took part in lots of drama and hot seating to bring their history alive. All the children's writing was supported by their daily phonics, SPAG, guided reading programme and twice weekly reading comprehensions.



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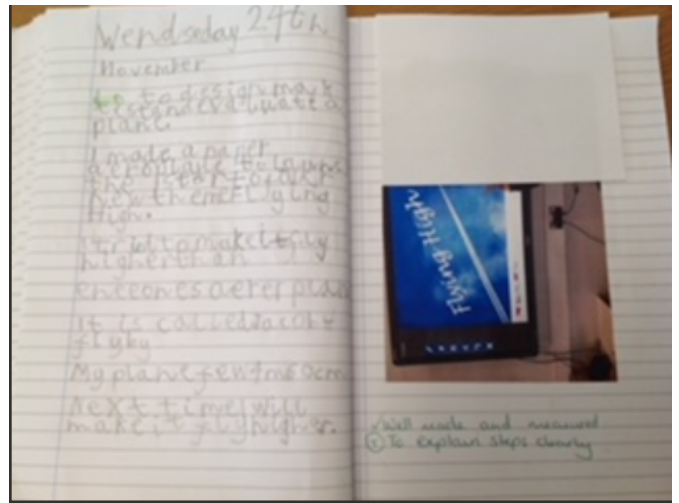




The children's third theme Flying High has involved them expressing how text makes them feel and using rhyme and alliteration to create their own magic spell poems. The children also practised reciting a poem dramatically and wrote non-chronological reports on how Christmas is celebrated by people from Christian cultures around the world. The term ended with informal letter writing to Santa.

### Maths

The children have had an exciting and challenging maths journey. Their first unit was place value, reading, writing and ordering numbers. There was lots of evidence of reflective enquiry and independent learning as the children demonstrated their skill and understanding. Next, the children looked at number: addition and subtraction. They recalled known facts to 20 and used related facts to 100. The children played Victorian number games to develop their addition skills using concrete objects alongside mental calculations, these were the games that they saw in the nursery at Lanhydrock House.



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Our reasoning and word problem solving challenges have often been cross curricular. The children used inverse to add and subtract and used this to check answers and solve missing number problem. The next step of the children's mathematical learning journey was followed by measurement focusing on money, length and mass. The children choose and used appropriate standard units to explore this cross curricular through their theme Flying High as they learnt to measure and estimate length, height and mass to the nearest appropriate unit using rulers and scales. The term concluded with multiplication and division. The children have been so enthusiastic about our new times tables challenges. They have transferred skills well and made impressive progress.



## Geography



In geography Year 2 have learnt to use aerial photos and to recognise familiar buildings, use a map with symbols and a key. We used maps to find routes from different locations to the school and drew routes using directional language. Computing and google Earth was used to develop our skills and understanding. Next, we used maps to navigate our way around the school grounds and immediate area. The children then

located the four countries of the UK and their capital cities and compared our maps to those shown on a website as we tracked Santa's journey across the world and identified countries he will visit.

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## History

Our history learning journey began with the launch of our theme 'Through the Keyhole' and an inspiring tour of Lanhydrock House. The aim was to find out about significant historical events, people and places in our locality. The children identified and compared features of buildings and objects from the past and present, talked about the history of the building and posed questions and learnt how these can be answered through examining a variety of evidence. The next theme Flying High developed our skills further as we learnt about the story of the Wright brothers, created timelines of the history of flight and identified the qualities of successful inventors in history. The learning about history was cross curricular we also studied significant historical events including Guy Fawkes and Remembrance.



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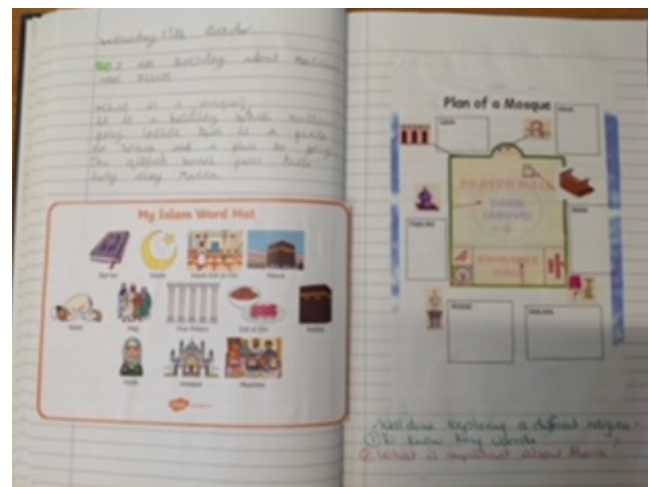
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## RE

In RE we have been busy developing our understanding of Christianity and Islam. Our aims have been to engage pupils so that they know about and understand Christianity and Islam as living faiths, to engage and develop knowledge and skills in making sense of biblical text and develop pupils ability to connect. We have focused on the Gospel and explored Bible stories which give good news. We have written accounts of what this means, described how Christians show their beliefs, talked through, thought and asked questions to make links to our lives and experiences. The children really enjoyed Daya's visit learning about life as a Muslim and broadening their understanding of this faith.



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## Science

In Year 2 the children have explored Science through our themes; What do I need to be me? and Through the Keyhole. The term began with the children exploring young animals of different species and identifying missing stages in an animal's lifecycle. Next the children learnt about healthy foods and the importance of exercise and keeping active. They thought carefully and explored choices and joined in discussions to justify their choices.

(National Curriculum, Year 2 - Pupils should be taught to: notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults, find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air) and describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene).



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During our theme Through the Keyhole the children learnt about materials. They identified and compared the uses of everyday materials. The children observed closely and recorded their findings on a table, listing materials and their properties. The next step in the children's learning journey was to compare features and items discovered on their class trip to Lanhydrock House and understand why certain materials are used for different items. The children used our outdoor area and feely bags to explore properties and computing to develop their understanding through images and video clips. The children concluded by identifying the difference between man-made and natural materials, devised tests and presented our findings. Their work was cross curricular and enhanced statistic work in maths. (National Curriculum, Year 2- Pupils should be taught to: identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses and to find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching).

## **Computing**

In computing, the children have been using technology purposely to create and store content. The children have written Bonfire Night acrostic poems and added images. They have presented their work to their friends and peer assessed each other's work (National Curriculum KS1 to use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content). Alongside this we have been focusing on online safety, communication and collaboration. The children have written and sent a thank you letter to Lanhydrock House for the support and resources they sent us so that we could fully access our study of a famous local house. We focussed on sending suitable and purposeful emails and developing awareness of appropriate language (National Curriculum Computing KS1 to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private; identify where to go for help and support when they have concerns about content or contact on the internet or other online technologies).

## **PE**

In PE we have been focussing on gymnastics, cricket and dance this term. We have been learning to travel and stop in a variety of ways showing movements and shapes that are stretched and curled. We have shown we can jump safely with

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control using apparatus. Next, we explored balances and sequences combining all elements. Finally, we evaluated our skills and practised performances.



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## Art

In Year 2 the children's art learning journey was launched through their theme What do I need to be me? The children began by recreating shapes and patterns found on animals. They made their own print tiles to make an accurate 3D version. Next the children learnt how to mix printing inks to create colour and used print blocks to create repeat images of the animal images they had studied. The children's next focus was to explore the similarities and differences between artists' images of fruit. They then created their own still life drawings and paintings. The children also designed and produced their own Christmas card using print and adding fine line detail. Alongside art the children have completed a variety of DT activities through



their themes Through the Keyhole and Flying High. The children really enjoyed and developed their skills through our textile project to design and make a bookmark. They designed plans on dotted paper, drew the stitches and listed materials needed. Next the children made bookmarks in the style of a sampler and developed their sewing skills. During our theme Flying High the children learnt about moving parts, single pivot levers and slider mechanisms. They made moving Christmas cards and tree decorations. The children also designed and made planes with specific design criteria and measured how far they flew. For our school fundraising the children designed and made printed cards and produced impressive products to sell to family and friends.

## Music

In music the children really enjoyed learning to understand elements of pitch, tempo and dynamics. We listened carefully to music to identify these elements and say how different music makes us feel. The children matched pictures to music and explained their choices to others. Next, we performed, using percussion instruments

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in front of the class exploring all these elements. Through our theme Through the Keyhole, we considered how music can be used to tell a story. We listened to The Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky and how the music matches various toys. The children then created a graphic score of a journey from the front door to the nursery at Lanhydrock House (the venue for our virtual school trip). We chose instruments and sounds to represent aspects of the journey and performed our music in front of others.

Finally, everyone in Year 2 wish you all a merry Christmas. I hope that you enjoy extra-special family times now your children are at home with you over the festive period. We look forward to seeing you all back in 2021!

Very best wishes,  
Mrs C Kitching.

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