

Skyswood Primary & Nursery School

Chandlers Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 9RS

Tel No: 01727 854164

Email: admin@skyswood.aetrust.uk

Headteacher: Mr R J Bridle

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 2 and another year back at Skyswood! I hope you all have had a lovely summer break. The children have already settled in brilliantly and made such a lovely start – I'm really looking forward to a fantastic year with them. Below, you'll find an outline of what we'll be covering during the Autumn term.

In English this term, we are starting with a narrative unit, focusing on the book *The Frog and the Stranger* by Max Velthuis. This will help the children develop their writing skills with an emphasis on writing to entertain. Next, we'll move on to writing instructions, inspired by the book *How to Make Friends With a Ghost*. We'll then end the first half term with a fun and creative poetry unit. After the October half term, we will return to another narrative unit, again focusing on writing to entertain, followed by a unit centred around writing letters.

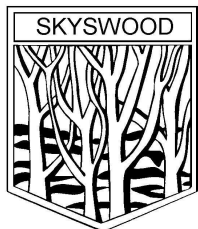
Read, Write, Inc. will be taught every day in addition to our English units. Every Friday, the children will receive new spellings during their Read, Write, Inc. lesson - these will link to their current learning and/or sounds. Reading continues to be a high priority; please encourage your child to read both to you and independently, approximately 5 minutes a day. All reading should be recorded in their reading record, which will be checked regularly. Comprehension is vital, so please talk about the character, predict what might happen and discuss what is happening in the story. Please also number the 'nights' you read at home so all the children can be involved in the 50 Night Read. We will encourage the children to complete this challenge at school too! This year, book change days are Tuesday and Friday. However, if a child hasn't finished their book, they are welcome to keep it until they are ready to change it.

In Maths this term, we will be learning about place value, then addition and subtraction, followed by shape. As a Key Stage, we are no longer sending home Maths cards. This will be replaced by a suggested 15 minutes of Times Tables Rock Stars a week. Children will be re-given their individual login and password on Friday 4th September. If you prefer an alternative way to practise times-tables, e.g. oral rehearsal or written practice, that is also acceptable. The times-tables that Year 2 should initially focus on are: 2s, 5s, and 10s. Once secure, they can move on to 3s and 11s. This includes rapid recall of all multiplication and division facts. If you feel you would like to support your child further with their Maths, you can access the 'Parent and Pupil' section of the White Rose website. This will show you what the maths focus is for this term.

In Science, the children will be learning all about Animals, Including Humans. This unit will continue throughout the whole Autumn term.

In Year 2, we follow a rotation of three Geography units and two History units across the year, alternating each term. We'll begin with a Geography unit focusing on Maps. After the October half term, we'll move on to our History unit all about The Great Fire of London. This unit will finish with a





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special visit from History Off The Page, where the children will spend the day in an immersive Great Fire of London experience.

In Art we begin with a focus on portraits. After half term, we will move on to Design and Technology, where the focus will be puppets.

In Computing the children will begin by learning about Information Technology Around Us and then move on to Digital Photography.

RE this term will be taught by Mrs Rich. The children will be exploring the topic What Makes Some People Important to Us?, with a focus on Christianity and Judaism.

PE will take place on Tuesdays and Fridays. This term, we will be focusing on sending and receiving, ball skills, net and wall games, and dance. Weather permitting, we will continue to have PE lessons outside, so please ensure your child has suitable footwear or trainers.

If you're able and interested in volunteering to help with 1:1 reading or additional Maths support, we would really value your support. If you're available and would like to help, please feel free to email me the times and days you can do and I can see if this works for our timetable.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead - I can already tell it's going to be a great one!

Yours sincerely,
Miss Gray

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