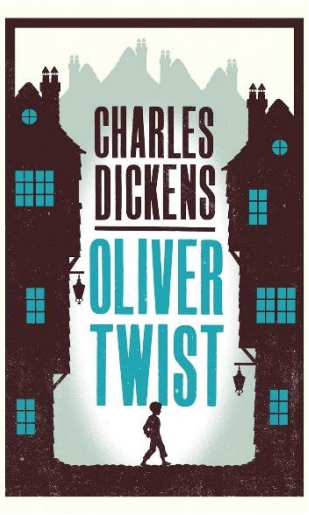
Autumn Newsletter – Year 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic start to the new term! Everyone has settled into the new routines and the children have already shown that they are ready for the step up to Year 2 - we are really proud of the way the children have started the school year!



Creative Curriculum

Our main topics this term are a book study on 'Oliver Twist' and a history unit on 'The Great Fire of Newcastle & Gateshead'. The children will learn many new skills and concepts through these exciting topics. In the first few weeks of term, the whole of KS1 is exploring the classic Dickens novel. In our second topic, the children will explore the events of the Great Fire of Newcastle & Gateshead. They will use their **Historical Enquiry** skills to learn about how the fire happened and how it changed the Tyneside region; in ***Art & Design*** they will develop shading skills through detailed observations of local landmark. In ***Geography***, Year 2 will be identifying where they live using maps. They will also be learning about our capital city and identifying famous landmarks in our Region and the UK. ***Computing*** will support the children's ability to research and find information about our topics using key words and websites. We are all so excited to get started!

English



The children will develop their skills in English through the Creative Curriculum topics. There are three key areas that are focused on:

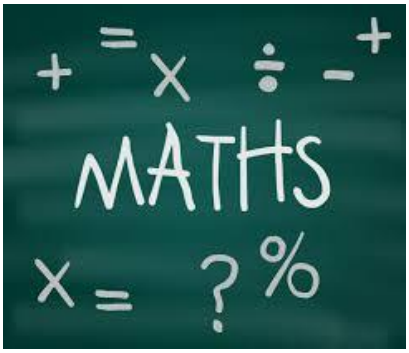
Reading: To use phonic knowledge to sound out and blend new vocabulary to understand new information. The children will develop their reading stamina in order to read longer texts and answer questions about what they have read to show their understanding. They will identify new vocabulary and discuss the meaning of these words within their contexts to provide a deeper understanding of what they are reading.

Writing: To develop letter formation and handwriting stamina so they can write longer pieces of work. Children will become word detectives, identify features of diaries, recounts and character descriptions using exciting vocabulary and include them in coherent sentences.

Grammar, punctuation & spelling: To revisit spelling patterns from Year 1 to boost confidence, learn new spelling patterns which are shared in the reading record books, identify and use a range of words such as nouns, verbs and adjectives as well as using capital letters and full stops accurately in sentences.

Spellings will be shared on a Wednesday to learn for the following Wednesday for a challenge. Please support your child with their reading little and often and write a weekly comment in their reading record to let us know how they are doing with their reading at home.

Maths



During this term, the children will explore numbers to 100 and develop their understanding of place value. They will use practical resources to make and record amounts to 100, order and sequence a range of numbers using facts such as odd and even numbers and multiples of 10 and 5. Year 2 will also use their knowledge of place value to solve problems about the Creative Curriculum topics. This will include estimating and measuring using metres and centimetres. Moving forward, the children will begin to add and subtract and multiply and divide, using a range of new strategies to solve calculations to 100. What an exciting time!

Times Tables – Starting on Wednesday 16th September, your child will take part in a times tables challenge where they will answer questions, initially about the 10x tables. These are shared in the maths notebook inside the reading folder. Your child will also have the opportunity to develop their online skills by using 'Times Tables Rock Stars.' The details of this will be shared in due cours.

PE



PE will take place every Tuesday afternoon and will be delivered by Mrs Gregson. Please can you send your child into school wearing their **full PE kit (plain white t-shirt, plain unbranded navy/black shorts or joggers and their school jumper as well as trainers for outside sessions).** Please ensure that your child's PE kit is fully labelled. No jewellery should be worn and hair must be tied back. If earrings need to stay in, families must provide plasters to cover them. Thank you.

Science

This term, Year 2 will learn about materials, including their properties and what certain materials are best used for.

Religious Education

This year we are using a brand new approach for teaching RE called 'The Way'. Our topics this term will be: 'Creation and Covenant' and 'Prophecy and Promise.'

School Lunch

As a Healthy School, part of our responsibility is to encourage families to provide healthy packed lunches for their children. As a starting point, please ensure that you do not supply fizzy drinks for your child but choose water or diluted cordial instead. For ideas on what to include as part of a healthy packed lunch, please refer to our school website. All children in Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school lunch and meals that are prepared and served are delicious! Please provide the school office with at least **7 days'** notice if you wish to change. Thank you for supporting us in this matter.

School Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform as detailed on our school website. Please note, school uniform is black shoes or trainers and the PE kit is plain black or dark blue school shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings. Any children coming to school in non-uniform items will be provided with plain items we now hold in school. These will be washed and cleaned after every use.

After School Club

We are extremely lucky to have our own After School Club on site, running Mon-Thursday from the end of school until 6.00pm and 5.30pm Friday. The Club is run by members of our school staff and it represents excellent value for money as well as providing a range of stimulating, exciting activities for the children in a familiar environment. If you are interested in finding out more, please visit the school website and speak to a member of the office staff.

Finally, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to speak with a member of the Year 2 staff; we are accessible via the class email address (year2@stcuthbertsk.org) or, if you'd rather speak to us in person, you are welcome to catch myself or Mrs Gregson at the door during drop-off and pick-up times. For longer meetings, please make an appointment through the school office.

Thank you,

Mr Bright & Mrs Gregson