



Year 2 Spring Term 2
Australia

Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents,

We hope you have had a lovely half term, enjoying the lighter evenings and some Spring sunshine! We will be teaching your children whilst Mrs Feldman is on maternity leave. The children and staff have made us very welcome, and we are looking forward to working with your lovely children and all the team at Barford St Peter's. We will be studying Australia over the next half term looking at what it is like to live in Australia compared to other countries.

Supporting learning at home:

- Encourage your child to read every day and record this in their reading record book. We would love children to access a range of genres in their reading at home, including poetry, non-fiction and fiction.
- Support and encourage your child to learn their weekly spellings; little and often is best. Please find attached the spellings for this half term as well as a list of common exception words. It will be beneficial for the children to be able to read and spell all of these words by the end of the academic year.
- Please continue to consolidate counting in 2s, 5s and 10s with your child, as well as addition facts to 10, 20 or 100 and the related subtraction facts; eg: $16 + 4 = 20$ so $20 - 16 = 4$.
- Engage in measuring activities through practical activities such as cooking.

Homework

Homework will be sent out on a Thursday and is due in the following Tuesday. It will consist of reading, spellings, a piece of maths work and a piece of English work which will be a reading comprehension. Your child's maths homework will now be online on Education City and TT Rockstars. The expectation will be that children complete the maths task on Education City as well as spending 10-15 minutes on TT Rockstars each week (as a minimum). If you have any issues or questions about the homework at any point please drop me an email.

Reading Books

Children's reading books will be changed each Tuesday. They will bring some 2 books each week. Please ensure that you record in children's reading diaries and keep the reading books in their book bags every day. It is really important that the children read the same book multiple times to build up fluency and confidence and to help children to be able to contribute any comprehension discussions you might have with them.

Dates for the Diary

World Book Day – 7th March

Science Week—11th March

P.E. Kits

Our P.E. sessions will be on a Monday afternoon and a Wednesday afternoon so children will need their P.E. kits for those days. We will be outside on a Wednesday so make sure you've got warm clothes!

Library Books

Each Friday, children will have the opportunity to bring home a library book to share with you. Please return these each Friday so that they can swap their book for a new one. This is in addition to the school reading books.

Please feel free to email or speak to me if you have any questions or worries. Our class email address is year2@barfordstpeters.co.uk.

Best Wishes

Mrs Gourlay and Mrs Horsman

English

In English we will be learning to:

- Write a narrative using dialogue and a character description using adjectives and adverbs. We will be using 'The Koala That Could' by Rachel Bright as our inspiration.
- Write poetry about Australian animals and an explanation about snorkeling on The Great Barrier Reef
- In guided reading, we will also be using texts linked to our topic such as The Sandman and The Turtles by Michael Morpurgo
- In grammar, we will be covering nouns, adjectives, expanded noun phrases, apostrophes for possession, conjunctions and speech punctuation.

Examples of stories you could share with your child at home which relate to our topic include:

- Australia (Where on Earth?)
- Rainbow Bird by Eric Maddern
- Young Dark Emu A Truer History by Bruce Pascoe (colonialisation)
- Waltzing Matilda by Banjo Paterson and Freya Blackwood
- Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French and Bruce Whately
- Louie and Snippy Save the Sea by Collette Dinnigan and Grant Cowan
- Ella and the Ocean by Lian Tanner and Jonathan Bentley (The Outback)
- Mirror by Jeannie Baker
- Stories from the Billabong by James Vance Marshall (Aboriginal folk stories)

Maths

In maths we will be learning to:

- choose and use appropriate standard units to estimate and measure length/height in any direction (m/cm); mass (kg/g); temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$); capacity (litres/ml) to the nearest appropriate unit, using rulers, scales, thermometers and measuring vessels#
- compare and order lengths, mass, volume/capacity and record the results using $>$, $<$ and $=$
- recognise and use symbols for pounds (£) and pence (p); combine amounts to make a particular value
- find different combinations of coins that equal the same amounts of money
- solve simple problems in a practical context involving addition and subtraction of money of the same unit, including giving change
- compare and sequence intervals of time
- tell and write the time to five minutes, including quarter past/to the hour and draw the hands on a clock face to show these times
- know the number of minutes in an hour and the number of hours in a day

Geography



We will be focusing on planet Earth in our geography lessons. We'll be locating the 7 continents and looking closely at a globe to identify the Northern and Southern Hemisphere. We will explore the characteristics of the 7 continents that make up our world and the oceans that surround them. We will also be looking at the human and physical features of some of the most important cities in the world.

Art and D.T.



In art we will be exploring the art of Indigenous Aboriginal artists and Torres Islanders art through the medium of paint, printing techniques and line drawings. We will be using string and cardboard to create a printing block to create a repeated pattern taking inspiration from Aboriginal art.

Science



In Science, we will be looking at how animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

We will be finding out about the basic needs of animals, including humans for survival (water, food, and air). We will be looking at the importance for humans to exercise and eat the right amounts of different types of foods.

P.E.



In P.E. we will be doing both dance and team sports! Miss Ruby will be doing dance with us. In our team sports sessions, we will be having a go at a few different sports and learning the rules to lots of different sports like hockey, netball, football and rugby.

Relationships & Health Education



In P.S.H.E. we will be continuing to look at family and relationships. Children will be understanding the role of the family in their lives as well as thinking about the range of families that exist in our country.

We will also focus on understanding other's feelings and begin to understand that some friendships might make us feel unhappy.

R.E.



We will be learning about Muslims and what they believe in. We will be listening and responding to stories from the Muslim faith and about the Prophet Muhammed. We will also be virtually exploring mosque and learning about the things Muslims do there.

Music



In our music sessions we will be using our voices to sing a melody whilst also playing an instrument. We will be describing the dynamics of timbre of our pieces and be showing a range of emotions with our voices. We will be composing and performing pieces using different dynamics.

Computing



Our computing topic will focus on data handling. We will be using the International Space Station as inspiration for this. We will be collecting data, using it and displaying it in appropriate formats. This will also link with our Science topic and we will be learning about the conditions plants need to survive and creating an algorithm for this.

Spellings- 22.02.24 Test 27.02.24 1.watch 2.reward 3.word 4.quarter 5.squash 6.towards 7.swap 8.world 9.who 10.whole	Spellings- 29.02.24 Test 07.03.24 1.washes 2.wants 3.working 4.watering 5.squashes 6.squatting 7.swaps 8.matching 9.who 10.whole	Spellings- 12.03.24 Test 17.03.24 1.flies 2.tries 3.parties 4.plays 5.pennies 6.enjoys 7.babies 8.dries 9.people 10.friend	Spellings- 19.03.24 Test 24.03.24 1.kidney 2.alley 3.monkeys 4.jellies 5.turkeys 6.chimney 7.lollies 8.donkey 9.move 10.improve
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Common exception words for Year 2

Here are some common exception words – words that are spelled without using the normal spelling rules – that children in England are expected to be able to spell by the end of Year 2 (age 7).

door	everybody	improve
floor	even	sure
poor	great	sugar
because	break	eye
find	steak	could
kind	pretty	should
mind	beautiful	would
behind	after	who
child	fast	whole
children	last	any
wild	past	many
climb	father	clothes
most	class	busy
only	grass	people
both	pass	water
old	plant	again
cold	path	half
gold	bath	money
hold	hour	Mr
told	move	Mrs
every	prove	parents