

Squirrels Class Newsletter

Spring 2025 

Welcome back to Year 2! We hope you have had a fantastic Christmas and New Year, and that your children are looking forward to their new Spring term in Year 2. This term we are really focusing on good learning behaviours making an impact on progress and attainment.

Adults in Year 2 are as follows:

Mrs Christine Stewart – teacher Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday Mrs Anna Carnegie – teacher, Thursday, Friday
Mrs Smith – teaching assistant Monday to Thursday

If you need to contact us about anything (no question is too silly), you can catch us at the door after school with any quick queries, or you can email us.

Mrs Stewart cstewart@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Carnegie

acarnegie@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Lunches and snack

Each morning, children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian) and yellow (jacket potato) options, or packed lunch from home. They can mix and match school lunches and packed lunches throughout the week.

Fruit snack is provided by the Government in Year 2. Children may bring in their own snack, but this must be a piece of fruit.

Drop off and collection

Drop off – between 8.35am and 8.45am, at the side gate. Children walk through the playground to their classroom.

Please try to be on time, because we often do one to one reading during the first part of the day.

Collection – at 3.15pm, from the Gazebo on the playground.

What to bring each day

- Water bottle (named)
- Book bag (no rucksacks)
- Reading folder (record and book)
- Coat, sun hat (weather dependent) Please label ALL clothing!

Home learning

Many parents ask how they can help their child at home. The answer to this is read, read, and read some more!

We don't set any regular formal home learning activities at Tewin Cowper.

Instead, we really want families to focus primarily on reading, because it underpins *everything* the children learn in school. Reading supports writing, imagination, vocabulary, empathy comprehension, communication...to name but a few things!

Please aim to do the following every day:

- Listen to your child read, and record this each time in the reading record so we can see what they have been reading. A detailed comment each time is not necessary.
- Read to/with your child every day, and enjoy the experience together! This could be picture or chapter books, but could also include recipes, comics, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Children will be reading in school (either with an adult or independently) a few times a week, so please make sure they bring in their reading folders *every day*, or they might miss their reading slot.

Library

Our class library slot is on Fridays. Children will be able to choose a book from the library to take home, share and enjoy. Please ensure that this is back in their book bag each Friday so they can swap it for a new book. If they would like to keep it for longer than one week, they have the option to do this.

Class reading book

Our first whole-class reading for pleasure book will be, 'The Boy who Grew Dragons'. We will be enjoying some of this as a class each day. If your child would like to buy a copy of the book, or borrow one from the library, so they can follow it in class as we read, they are welcome to. This is not essential, though!

PE

PE in Year 2 will take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper branded t-shirt and jumper. Children must come into school dressed in the new PE kit on those days. If you have ordered your child's kit but it has not arrived yet, please let them wear the old kit for now, and then use the new kit as soon as you have it.

They will be some of their PE lessons outside this term, so must be wearing clothing appropriate for the weather, as well as suitable trainers.

Spring Term: Learning overview

English

In English we continue to follow the Hertfordshire Essential writing scheme. This term we will be looking at writing to inform using the book 'Dragon Post' by Emma Yarlett, then moving onto narrative looking at the book 'Rapunzel' by Bethan Woollvin. After half term we will be looking at non-chronological reports.

In Phonics we are starting Level 6. Please look at the weekly phonics we are teaching in the small purple books that go home.

In guided reading we use decodable books at the correct level to teach in small groups. This happens every week in 4 sessions. We do shared reading and comprehension activities alongside these sessions.

Maths

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts. We begin the term by repeating some of the core Year 2 content: adding and subtracting across 10. Then we move onto multiplication and division.

You can support your child with their maths fluency by practising things like:

- Number bonds to 10, 20, 50 and 100 (e.g. 3 and 7, 12 and 8, 35 and 15, and 44 and 56)
- 2, 5 and 10 times tables – skip counting forwards and backwards, as well as knowing times table facts
- Doubles and halves recall

One Minute Maths is a brilliant app that gives children quick-fire questions to practise their maths fluency. It is free to download and use.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

PE

The class is taught by Premier Education for one lesson, and Mrs Stewart for the other. This first half term, the children will be doing both gymnastics and OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities). In Autumn 2, they will move onto PE Fundamentals and Ball Skills.

Music

Orchestral Instruments: Traditional stories. Using instruments to represent characters, copying rhythms and creating our own rhythms.

Science

Our first unit is 'Uses of everyday materials'. By the end of the unit the children will have been able to:

- Name objects with the same use that are made from different materials.
- Name materials that are used to make objects with different uses.
- Recognise that stretching, twisting, bending and squashing can cause some solid objects to change shape.
- Name properties that make materials suitable for their use.

History

In History this term the children will be developing their knowledge of events beyond living memory and reinforcing their chronological understanding by looking at significant events in the history of flight on a timeline. Learning about the individuals who contributed to the history of flight.

Geography

Learning about the world's wonders, the names and locations of the world's oceans and considering what is unique about the local area. This unit also involves some outdoor fieldwork.

Art

This term's focus is developing colour mixing skills, learning about the work of artist Romare Bearden and creating textured papers using paint, children compose collages inspired by their exploration of colour and texture in the world around them.

Computing

Learning about online safety, including: what happens to information posted online; how to keep things private online; who we should ask before sharing online; describing different ways to ask for, give, or deny permission online.

Design and Technology

Cooking and nutrition: Balanced diet

Learning about the importance of a balanced diet and using that knowledge to create a tasty wrap.

RE

In RE this term we will be looking at the religion Islam and how Muslims are committed to prayer. Then we will be looking at what Easter means to Christians.

PSHE

This term we will be looking at valuing differences. We are all different but special. We will be teaching inclusivity and being kind.

French

We just use some French basic vocabulary in Year 2 greetings etc. It is not a set subject until KS2.