Year 2 Autumn Term News 2026

Welcome to Year 2! I hope you all had a great summer break. The children are beginning to settle into their new routines and remain enthusiastic and engaged in their learning. I have enjoyed getting to know them and look forward to seeing what they achieve throughout the year.
During our journey through Year 2, we will continue to develop the children's independent thinking and learning skills. The children will work collaboratively and apply higher-order thinking skills across different areas of learning.

Our learning support assistant this year is Miss Reynolds.



Our topics this term will be **Our Island home – Jersey and the Channel Islands and The Gunpowder Plot.**

Here is an overview of our subject focuses for the term:

PSHE - At Grands Vaux, we are using a scheme called SCARF. This term we will focus on 'Me and My Relationships' and 'Valuing Difference.' The SCARF "Me and My Relationships" unit is the first PSHE and Wellbeing theme in the SCARF programme. It focuses on helping children develop positive relationships, understand their feelings, communicate effectively, and know where to seek help when needed. The SCARF "Valuing Difference" unit helps children understand, respect and celebrate the similarities and differences between people. It promotes inclusion, kindness, fairness and respect while helping children recognise and challenge unkind or discriminatory behaviour.

English – As a school, we deliver our English lessons through a text-driven approach, which involves selecting high-quality texts to engage the children and using these to teach specific reading, writing, and spoken language objectives in an engaging way. In their reading lessons, children are given the opportunity to participate in key discussions about characters and plots, take part in role-play activities, and ask questions about the texts they read. This term, we will be writing wanted posters, letters of apology, diary entries, and descriptive pieces.
We will focus on spellings as well as continue with our phonics scheme, ELS, and look at how to apply phonics knowledge in our writing.
The children will have guided reading sessions where they will learn to use strategies to decode and read words (phonics), read with fluency (by reading the same books to build fluency), comprehend what they are reading, and enjoy reading a variety of genres. If you have any questions about helping your child with reading at home, please let me know.

Maths – In Maths, we follow the White Rose Maths scheme, which helps children build a strong understanding of mathematical concepts through practical resources, pictures and numbers. Rather than simply learning how to find an answer, children are encouraged to think deeply about their maths, explain their ideas and understand why their answers are correct. We tailor learning to meet the needs of our children, ensuring that everyone can take part, feel successful and make progress at their own level. Our first focus this term will be place value, with children exploring numbers to 20 and 100. Throughout our maths lessons, we celebrate different ways of solving problems and encourage children to talk about their thinking, helping them to become confident and resilient mathematicians.

Science – In Science, we will be exploring the uses of everyday materials and discovering why certain materials are chosen for different purposes. Children will investigate the properties of materials and think about what makes them suitable or unsuitable for particular jobs. They will also be encouraged to use their creativity to suggest unusual and imaginative uses for everyday materials.
To enrich our learning, we will be visiting the Recycling Centre at La Collette, where the children will learn more about recycling, sustainability and how materials can be reused. This hands-on experience will help bring our classroom learning to life and encourage the children to think carefully about how we can all look after our environment.

Physical Education – Year 2 have PE on Tuesday and Thursday. This term we will be doing athletics and dodgeball. Dodgeball will focus on improve their ability to move fluently changing speed and direction. They will continue to develop key fundamental movement skills, both with and without a ball, which will improve their ability to move in a safe, controlled way.

Computing – In Computing, we will be learning about the technology we use in our everyday lives and how it helps us at home, school and in the wider community. Children will explore how technology is used in places such as shops, hospitals, farms and libraries, and consider how it helps people communicate and complete different jobs. We will also continue to develop our understanding of how to use technology safely and responsibly. Alongside this, the children will learn how to create digital writing and take photographs, building their confidence and creativity when using technology.

Art, Design and Technology – In Art, we will focus on drawing, which will be linked to our history topic on the Gunpowder Plot. For Design Technology, we will concentrate on mechanisms, where the children will focus on axles and wheels.

History and Geography – This half term, we will focus on Jersey, with a particular emphasis on maps, parishes, and human and physical features. Next half term, our theme will be the Gunpowder Plot, where we will investigate what happened and the outcome. We will use different historical skills, such as examining various sources as well as using drama to retell the story.

Music – This term, our music lessons will focus on call and response, using animals as the theme.

RE - During RE lessons, the children will explore the question, 'What is the Good News that Jesus brings?'

Home – Learning

In Year 2, homework consists of:

Reading
Please continue to read with your child at home each day. Even a short reading session, followed by a chat about the story, helps to build fluency, understanding and a lifelong love of reading. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that when parents actively support learning at home, children can make up to **four additional months of progress** over the course of a school year. These small daily reading habits can make a big difference to your child's confidence, progress and enjoyment of books.
In the reading log, please make a comment about their reading, highlighting any challenges or achievements you observe.

Reading Log
Your child should bring their reading log to school every day. Please ensure that whoever reads with your child records their reading in the log. This will help us monitor their progress and provide appropriate guidance based on their individual needs.

Spellings
New spellings will be issued on a Friday after they have been tested. Homework will be set on a Friday and will consist of a levelled reading book, a phonics book related to the phonics learning of that week, a library book, and spellings. All children have been given a home learning folder to keep their spellings, reading diary, and reading books in. Home learning folders need to be brought into school every day so that children's reading logs can be used by staff.

Maths
Each week, children will bring home a short Maths activity linked to their learning in class. This may be based on the week's learning or a fluency activity to help build confidence and recall of key mathematical skills. Activities will be sent home on Fridays and needs to be returned by the following Thursday so that a new activity can be shared each week.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home.

Other Information

Uniform and Name Labels
Children should wear black school shoes or black trainers as part of their school uniform. For PE lessons, children may wear trainers of any colour with their PE kit.
Please ensure that coats, jumpers, cardigans, PE tops, book bags, and lunch boxes are all clearly labelled. Thank you!

Water and Snacks
To support children's learning and wellbeing, all snacks brought into school should be healthy choices. Suitable snacks include fruit, vegetables, cheese, crackers and other nutritious options.
We ask that children do not bring sugary snacks into school. Foods that are high in added sugar can cause rapid increases and decreases in energy levels, which may affect concentration, focus and readiness to learn. Healthier snacks help to provide more sustained energy throughout the day and support children's overall health. Please do not send chocolate, crisps, biscuits or sweets as snacks for school.
Please ensure that your child has two named water bottles in school

School Library Books or Home Readers
If you have any books at home that belong to the school, we kindly ask that these are returned.

Thank you.
I really look forward to a busy term ahead!

Kind Regards
Mrs Audrain
Year 2/Key Stage 1 Lead

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