

WELCOME TO YEAR 2



2025-2026

The Year 2 Team



Mrs Cooper- Class Teacher

Favourite subject to teach: All of them because I like to know a bit of everything.

Did you know?: I love drawing, playing instruments and sports.

The best thing about being in Year 2 is.... learning new things and having fun.



Mrs Bushby- Teaching Assistant

Favourite subject to teach: Phonics because I love reading and being able to read means you can learn about everything.

Did you know?: I love listening to music, more than watching TV. My favourite is dance music.

The best thing about being in Year 2 is... using our knowledge from year 1 and learning even more about different subjects.

Year 2 Experiences



Trips and Visitors

Year 2 children spend the day at Clifton Mosque to support their learning and understanding of Islam in RE.

We also have our whole-school annual trip to the pantomime. This year we are seeing **Snow White**.

Yorkshire Wildlife Park is a highlight of the calendar in Year 2, and pupils spend a day learning all about different animals and their habitats. As well as viewing and observing the larger animals, children take part in workshops led by animal experts which ties in with their science learning. This also includes some hands-on experiences with different arthropods!



The **Key Stage 1 Nativity** is a huge event, and Year 2 children take on more of the main acting, speaking and singing roles. Pupils gain performing skills and confidence as they rehearse this important story, and often describe it as being one of their favourite memories from primary school when they are older. Families are invited for a morning or afternoon performance to share the Christmas magic.

Maths

In Key Stage 1 we aim to ensure that children have mastered the fundamental concepts of maths, and that they can use objects and pictures to represent these. We use tens frames, number lines and counters to support pupils every lesson. In Year 2 children will learn basic fractions (eg. $\frac{1}{4}$) and learn to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes.



By the end of Year 2, pupils start to use formal methods of addition and subtraction (column method), once they are confident with the underlying understanding.

Pupils use Reflex regularly to support their learning and revision of times table facts and number bonds.

Pupils in Year 2 continue to be precisely placed into phonics groups, to ensure that they are receiving daily teaching closely matched to their own ability. We follow Read Write Inc. Phonics to ensure that all of our children can read fluently and confidently by the time they leave Key Stage 1, enabling them to access the full Key Stage 2 wider curriculum.

Once pupils have completed each stage of our phonics programme, they move into a comprehension group – typically this happens some time within Year 2.

Read Write Inc. Comprehension allows children to apply their reading skills, and supports them to read with expression, pace and at length. It also introduces the two key reading skills for Key Stage 1 – retrieving information efficiently from a text, and making basic inference about character thoughts and feelings. This is all done in a range of engaging fiction and non-fiction contexts which children love.

Read Write Inc.
Phonics

Read Write Inc.
Comprehension

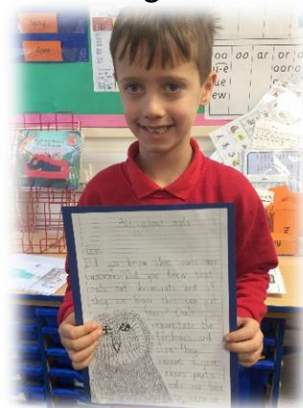
Writing

Our **Pathways to Write** curriculum journey begins in Year 2. Our ambitious writing curriculum is text-based, which means that every half-term, children are immersed in the language and style of a particular book or story before completing their own independent writing. Skills are precisely practised and built up gradually throughout the year, with pupils increasing the number of conjunctions and punctuation they can use during their time in Year 2. At least 3 times each year, pupils 'publish' their writing in their best handwriting and with their own hand-drawn illustrations.

Spelling and Handwriting

We use a combination of the ReadWriteInc. Spelling scheme and our own bespoke spelling units to support pupils to learn Common Exception Words.

Handwriting in Year 2 focuses on shape, fluency and speed. We do not teach any letter joins in Key Stage 1 at St Alban's.



PE

Children have two physical education sessions each week: one inside and one outside. This allows them to maintain good levels of physical fitness, as well as develop skills across a range of different games and sports. In Year 2 children learn a dance to Thriller, as well as complete solo and paired balances in gymnastics. We also have a range of extra-curricular clubs suitable for Year 2, including gymnastics and multi-sports.

Autumn 1 – Football and gymnastics

Autumn 2- Hockey, dance

Spring 1- Dodgeball, athletics

Spring 2- Basketball, gymnastics 2

Summer 1- Handball, cricket

Summer 2- Athletics, fitness/tennis



Art



Drawing

Children undertake a detailed study of the local artist Phlegm, and precisely practice using pencil techniques to create tone. They then apply this to their own imaginative ideas.

Painting

Pupils study Henri Rousseau and then create their own paintings inspired by his use of vivid colour and bold lines.

Tapestry (combined D&T unit)

Pupils create hand-sewn tapestries, with a range of embellishments, using felt and a hessian canvas. They learn different hand sewing stitches.

Design and Technology

Textiles

Children in Year 2 create their own hand puppets, developing their overstretch technique in particular. Year 2 pupils work creatively using a range of decorating techniques to embellish their puppets.

Food technology

Children research, design and make their own smoothies with a focus on using a range of healthy fruits to promote positive eating habits.

Pupils learn to evaluate their own product and suggest changes they would make in the future.



History

Mary Seacole

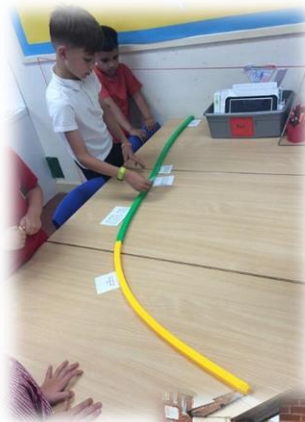
Children learn about the life and significance of Mary Seacole, as well as develop their knowledge of chronology and timelines.

Remembrance

Pupils learn about why we commemorate Remembrance Day, what people do on this special day and why.

Local History

The Year 2 local history unit focuses on the area of Listerdale, and the man who planned and designed the houses there- Joe Lister.



Geography



Local Fieldwork – children carry out fieldwork in the local area to identify human and physical features of geography.

Hot and Cold Places – pupils learn about seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom. Pupils use a range of practical ways to find out about the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.

Kenya- pupils learn that Kenya is a country, and locate it on a range of maps and globes. They then compare climate, weather and geographical features of the country with those in England and Rotherham.

Religious Education

In RE we primarily use Understanding Christianity to support pupils to develop a strong knowledge and love of Christian values. We also ensure pupils are exposed to and have a good understanding of other faiths, particularly those which are prevalent in modern Britain.



Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1
What is the good news Christians believe Jesus brings? Part 1 Christianity	What is the good news Christians believe Jesus brings? Part 2 Christianity	Who is a Muslim and how do they live? Part 1 Islam
Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Why does Easter matter to Christians? Christianity	Who is a Muslim and how do they live? Part 2 Christianity	What makes some places special to believers? Thematic Unit

PSHE

PSHE is taught through 3 main strands at St Alban's, and in Year 2 these build on previous learning from EYFS and Key Stage 1.

Relationships – a focus on making friends and loneliness, keeping secrets and resisting pressure as well as recognising commonalities and differences.

Living in the wider world- what it means to belong to a community and the different roles people have, understanding why we have and need money, internet use in everyday life.

Health and wellbeing- the importance of sleep and good sleep health, names of body parts, and identifying risks and hazards in new environments.

We continue to use **MyHappyMind** to support pupil mental health and wellbeing. We also use NSPCC Pants resources to support pupil understanding of consent and privacy.



Science



Practical works plays a key part of science and helps our children to develop their understanding of the world.

Science taught in Year 2:

Biology

- Healthy bodies – good diet and hygiene
- Animals in our local environment, including habitats and food chains
- Plants and what they need to grow

Chemistry

- Properties of and uses of everyday materials

Physics

- Squash, bend and stretch – an introduction to different forces

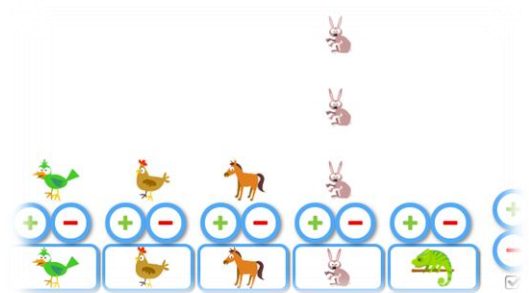
Computing

This year is the first year of our new computing curriculum. Pupils in Year 2 will:

- Learn about where and why we use computers in every day life.
- Take and edit photos using basic editing software.
- Use software to create pictograms.
- Create their own digital music.



We will also continue to use Discovery Programming to improve their coding skills and have opportunities to be creative when coding their own programmes and games.



Music



Our music curriculum focuses on two main strands: singing and playing the recorder.

Our work in singing focuses on listening, appraisal and awareness of different genres. Pupils learn about how to best use their voices and gain experience performing to others.

Children continue to learn to play the recorder in Year 2, and increase the number of notes that they can play and identify in musical notation.

During Year 2, children will continue to have their music education supported by Miss Payling, a music specialist who works at St Alban's for half a day each week.

