





Bramham and Shadwell Federation

Curriculum Newsletter: Class 2 April 2026



English

Focuses: This half term, our writing is inspired by two wonderful books that explore nature and the environment.

- Instructional Writing:** We are diving into the magical world of **'Willow Wildthing and the Swamp Monster'** by Gill Lewis. The children will be using their imaginations to craft clear, step-by-step instructions. 
- Persuasive Advertising:** after that, we will read **'Someone Swallowed Stanley'** by Sarah Roberts. This poignant story about a plastic bag in the ocean will provide the perfect backdrop for the children to write their own persuasive adverts. 

As we transition into the summer term, we are placing a heavy emphasis on **coherent sentences** and **uniform, joined handwriting**. Our grammar focus will include:

- Using imperative verbs, adverbs, and expanded noun phrases to add detail.
- Using time openers and conjunctions (such as *or*, *but*, *yet*, *if*, *when*, and *although*) to link ideas.
- Mastering the use of possessive apostrophes.
- Developing the "author's eye" to review and improve their own work.


Reading & Comprehension

Every day, the children engage in "Storyteller Voice" sessions to build fluency and expression. This is followed by daily partner and class discussions to deepen their comprehension and analytical skills.


Maths

Focuses: Shapes, Fractions & Time
This term, we continue our journey with Maths No Problem, focusing on three key areas:


3D Shapes:

The children will move beyond naming shapes to identifying their properties—counting faces, edges, and vertices. We will also explore how 3D shapes can be grouped and spotted in the world around us. 

Fractions:

We are introducing the concept of "parts of a whole." The children will learn to identify and write a half ($1/2$), a quarter ($1/4$) and three-quarters ($3/4$) and counting thirds ($1/3$) of shapes and quantities, ensuring they understand that parts must be equal. 

Time (start the topic):

Towards the end of the term, we will start to master telling the time to 5-minute intervals. We will focus on "past" and "to" the hour, as well as sequencing events and calculating durations. 

Fluency lessons:

We will continue to do weekly fluency lessons which focus on the children's mathematical foundations and times tables. **By the end of Year 2, the children are expected to be fluent in their 2s, 5s and 10s.**

Science

Focus: This half term the children will carry out a topic on plants.

Skills and knowledge to be developed:


The children will learn about seeds and bulbs, how they are similar and different and how they grow into mature plants. We will conduct an investigation to find out what happens to seeds which are grown under different conditions and discuss why some seeds were more successful than others.





Geography

Focus: This half term our focus is Geography skills and fieldwork.

Skills/knowledge to be developed:

The children will learn the compass points, look at aerial photographs of England and recognise famous landmarks. Children will draw and learn to read maps and create keys for these. We will also be recapping the names and locations of the seven continents and five oceans. 

Art: Sculpture	P.E: Football Fun	Computing: Creating Media - Digital Music	PSHE: Careers, financial capabilities and stability	Music: Whole Class Instrumental lessons	RE: Symbols to Welcome New Life.
<p>This half term the children will be focusing on the work on Axelle Russo and exploring clay. Children will experiment with imprinting, creating their own leaf sculpture, painting and varnishing their finished sculptures before evaluating and sharing their practice.</p> 	<p>This half term, Year 2 are hitting the pitch! We will be building our coordination and confidence through fun, active games. The children will practice the basics of dribbling, accurate passing, and shooting, all while learning the importance of teamwork and fair play.</p>	<p>Children will explore how music can make them think and feel. They will make patterns and use those patterns to make music with both percussion instruments and digital tools. They will create rhythms and tunes, using the movement of animals for inspiration. Finally, children will share their creations and compare creating music digitally and non-digitally.</p>	<p>This half term we will be using HSBC's money heroes to learn how to keep a record of what we save and spend, and whether we should save or spend in a range of situations. We will also explore how money has changed throughout the ages.</p> <p>Additionally, we have a wellbeing workshop delivered by MindMate at the start of the half term.</p>	<p>In music, we will continue practising the notes B, A and G, while introducing E and F and developing smooth transitions between them. Children will also begin learning simple musical notation, including note values such as crotchets, quavers, minims and rests. Each child will be given a recorder to keep in school for regular practice.</p> 	<p>This half term, we are exploring how different communities welcome new life. From our own classroom routines to Christian Baptisms, the Sikh Naam Karan, and the Islamic Aqiqah, the children will identify the symbols and ceremonies used to celebrate a new baby. We will also learn about Humanist naming ceremonies, helping the children understand how various faiths and beliefs create a sense of belonging.</p>

Helping at Home

Here are some helpful reminders of the resources you can access at home to support your child's learning and key vocabulary that we would encourage you to explore with your child to help them with their learning.

English	Children's reading books will be sent home on a Tuesday and a Friday each week. Children will be sent home with a book pitched at their current level and have the opportunity to take home a book to read for joy on a Friday from the class library.
Maths	Online access to TTRS and NumBots.
Science	Key vocabulary: life cycles, seeds, germinate, pollinate, plants, bulbs, hypothesis.
Geography	Key vocabulary: compass rose, north, south, east, west, aerial, satellite, landmarks.
Art	Key vocabulary: sculpture, clay, nature, 3D, sculptor, coil, ball, tile, imprint, varnish.
PE	Key vocabulary: dribbling, passing, coordination, spatial awareness, and teamwork.
Computing	Key vocabulary: images, sounds, pattern, pitch, sequence, untuned percussion instruments.
PSHE	Key vocabulary: save, spend, budget, buy, pound, penny, cost.
Music	Key vocabulary: Pitch, stave, pulse, rest, crotchet, minim, quaver, rhythm, timbre, melody, notes,
RE	Key vocabulary: welcome, routine, symbol, religious, meaningful, Sikh, Naam Karan, Guru Granth Sahib, Christian, baptism, godparent, Muslim, Aqiqah, Islamic, ritual, symbolic

Other ways to support at home:

- **Explore outdoors:** Encourage curiosity by going on nature walks or bug hunts. Children can collect leaves, sketch what they see, or keep a simple nature journal – supporting science, observation and vocabulary skills.
- Ask your child to **spot 3D shapes** in the kitchen or practice telling the time on an analogue clock during your daily routine!

Dates for the Diary and any other information

Monday 20th April – Summer term starts

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday

Friday 22nd May – break for half-term

Thursday 11th – Progress Café – Year 2

Wednesday 24th – Sports Day

Monday 13th July – Transition afternoon

Friday 17th July – Y6 Leavers/last day of term!

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school every day. They must remember to take it home every evening to wash the bottle and bring it in to school already full. This will ensure that the bottles are kept clean and germ-free for the children's use each day.

Our PE days this term is a **Monday and Tuesday**. Please ensure your child is wearing their house team t-shirt alongside appropriate PE kit. The majority of sessions this term will be outside so please ensure your child is wearing suncream and has a water bottle in school.