



Welcome to Year Two! We hope you had a fantastic summer and we look forward to having a wonderful year working together.

During the autumn term, we will be working hard in English to develop the children's reading, writing and speaking and listening. We will be reading a number of fictional texts such as "The Lonely Beast" and "George's Marvellous Medicine" to inspire our story writing and love of reading. We will also be researching and fact finding using a wide range of non-fiction books, looking closely at our history topic, which this term will be 'the Great Fire of London'. We will then be writing diaries in the style of an eye witness to the fire. Every week, the children will be learning about different aspects of spelling, grammar and punctuation and using this to improve their writing skills. The most important way you can support your child is by reading with them as often as possible. Your child will have the opportunity to change their reading book in their book bag on a daily basis. It is essential that you listen to them read aloud and also that you read to them. Please try and write in your child's reading diary on a weekly basis to keep us informed of their reading at home.

In our maths learning this term, the children will be focusing on place value (e.g. to know that the number 23 is made up of 2 digits that tell us how many tens and ones there are in the number and that  $23 = 20 + 3$ ) as well as looking at different ways we can add and subtract numbers. Please help your child with as much practical maths as possible; remembering that it is important that they can explain the method they used to solve a calculation. We will also work on visualising and describing 2D shapes (triangle, square, circle), telling the time to the nearest 15 minute interval and collecting information that will be recorded in tally charts and block graphs.

This term we are 'Looking at London'. This topic will cover all of our learning in art, design and technology, history and geography. In history, we will be learning about 'The Great Fire of London', when it happened and why and how it affected London. In October, the Freshwater theatre will be visiting us to help us learn more about our topic through drama. In geography, the children will look at where London is; learn about some of its significant landmarks and why it is an important city. We will be taking a trip to London, on the train, to see some of the landmarks for ourselves next half term and visiting "The Monument" next to London Bridge, which was built to commemorate where the fire started. In design and technology and art, we will be making pictures of the fire and a silhouette of the London skyline.

In science, we will be learning about "Living things and their habitats" and that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants. As part of this work, we will be taking the children to explore different natural environments at Morden Park Hall.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

There will be a chance for you to meet with your child's teacher this half term to talk through their next steps for learning. These will be taking place on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October**. We also look forward to seeing you on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am** for a meeting to give out information about the year two curriculum and also to look at the new SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) the children will be taking next spring. If you have any general concerns or questions in the meantime, please ask!

Mrs Sullivan (year two team leader)