



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 of 'The Great Fire of London'. We will then be writing exciting 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 how to use 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 on a daily basis to bring home to read that evening. It is essential that you listen to them read aloud and also that you read to them so they are exposed to a range of different texts. 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 work 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 and 3D shapes (hexagons, pentagons, cuboids, pyramids, cones), telling the time to the nearest 15 minute intervals and collecting information that will be recorded in tally charts and block graphs.

This term we are 'Looking at London'. The topic will cover the art, design and technology, history and geography curriculums. In history, we will be learning about 'The Great Fire of London', when it happened and why, how it affected London and how London was rebuilt. In November, the Freshwater Theatre Company 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. Next half term we will be taking a trip to London on the train to see some of the landmarks for ourselves and we will be visiting "The Monument", which was built to commemorate where the fire started. In our design technology and art work, we will be making pictures of the fire and a silhouette of the London skyline.

Our science topic this term is "Living things and their habitats", we will be learning that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited. We will be describing 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 Hall Park.

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 meetings will be taking place on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 3:30 to 6:30pm**. You will be able to sign up for a time nearer the date. We also look forward to seeing you on **Monday 3rd October at 2:00pm** for a meeting to share information about the year two curriculum and also to look at the SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) the children will be taking next May. If you have any general concerns or questions in the meantime, please ask!

Mrs Schoeffler (Year 2 team leader)