

Year 2 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026-27

Our main learning topic this half term is:

Nurturing Nurses: Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale & Edith Cavell

English 	This term, children will be learning a poem based on the life and achievements of Florence Nightingale. They will develop their understanding of rhyme and rhythm, ask questions, write sentences and use descriptive language to enhance their writing. Additionally, they will study the life of Mary Seacole and use the facts they have learnt to produce a fact file. Children will continue their daily phonics sessions, whilst developing their spelling and handwriting skills. 
Maths 	As mathematicians, pupils will read and write numbers to at least 100 in numerals and words. They will also compare and order numbers from 0 up to 100, using the <, > and = signs. This half-term's KIRF targets (key instant recall facts) include counting on and back from 0 in 2s, 5s and 10s. Pupils will also learn to count on and back in ones and tens from any given 2-digit number.
Science 	As scientists, pupils will study animals including humans. They will explore animal life cycles to better understand how offspring grow into adults and compare lifecycles of mammals, amphibians and insects, noting their similarities and differences. Pupils will also learn what animals need to survive e.g. water, food and air.
Computing 	As computer scientists, pupils will develop their understanding of 'online safety'. They will learn that what they do online leaves a 'digital footprint' and how to stay safe online using safe searches. Pupils will recognise whether a website is appropriate for children, and how to identify kind and unkind behaviour online and what to do if something they see, hear or read causes uncomfortable feelings.
History 	As historians, pupils will study secondary sources of information to explore the lives and achievements of Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell and their contributions to modern nursing. Children will further develop their understanding of chronology and sequence key events on a simple timeline.
Art and DT 	As part of our DT learning this half-term, pupils will design and make a healthy packed lunch. They will cut, peel and grate ingredients including cheese and carrots, whilst mixing and spreading their fillings. They will learn what makes a packed lunch nutritious and how to handle foods safely and hygienically.
Physical Education 	During our indoor PE lessons, children will be focusing on the fundamental skills of balance and coordination. The skills taught in our indoor sessions will transfer into our outdoor sessions where children will be learning to attack, defend and shoot in a mini game scenarios.
PSHE 	As model citizens, pupils will learn how to stay safe and manage risk, both at indoors and outdoors. They will be encouraged to identify common fire and trip hazards in the home, as well as traffic and water outside. Pupils will learn how to minimise such risks to remain safe.
RE 	As philosophers, pupils will consider how symbols are used to welcome new life. They will start by reflecting on babies are welcomed in their own families before exploring how they are welcomed in the Christian, Sikhi and Muslims faiths, as well as those without a faith.
Music 	As musicians, we will explore sounds through our Charanga unit, <i>Pulse, Rhythm and Pitch</i>. We will be exploring how music helps us to make friends and appraise and improvise songs, whilst identifying the beat. We will begin to use the terms: <i>pulse, pitch, tempo, dynamic and rhythm</i>, to describe the music we hear and create.



Dates for your diary!

Friday 25th September

15-minutes extra play for pupils who have completed the Summer Reading Challenge. Bring in the completion certificate to show participation.

Wednesday 14th October

FROGS Autumn Disco.

Thursday 15th October

Individual school photographs.

Wednesday 21st October

Parent/carer consultation evenings.

Thursday 22nd October

Parent/carer consultation evenings.

Friday 23rd October

FROGS non-uniform day for tombola prizes and bake sale.

Last day of the half-term.



PE Days

Year 2 Positive Penguins

Tuesday afternoon

PE clothing:

Please ensure children come to school dressed in their PE kits on their PE days (bottle green hoody/jumper/ cardigan, school PE t-shirt and plain black jogging bottoms).

Please ensure all uniform is labelled for ease of return in case they are misplaced.

Long hair needs to be tied up and ear studs removed or covered with tape.

Reminders:

Each day, please bring the following:

- Waterproof coat
- Labelled water bottles*
- Book bags (maximum 1-key ring)
- Healthy snack (no nuts).**

*Please ensure that your child's water bottle is cleaned regularly at home.

**Please send your child's snack in a small container or bag suitable for them eating their snack outside during morning break.

Please do not send your child with toys or stationery, unless this has been pre-agreed with their class teacher.



Homework

Each week, pupils will receive the following homework:

- Maths (written)
- English (written)
- Reading book x 2

****Note:** Homework will be assigned from 18.09.2026

Maths:

Maths homework is assigned on a **Friday**, to be completed by the following **Wednesday**. Tasks will be stuck into pupils' homework books.

English

Writing homework is assigned on a **Friday**, to be completed by the following **Wednesday**. Tasks will be stuck into pupils' homework books. Teachers will acknowledge by stamping or ticking pupil's work.

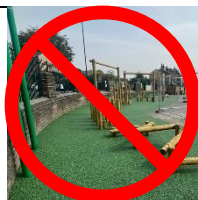
Reading:

Your child should read to you for a minimum of 10-minutes a day. RWI Book Bag Books are linked to what your child is reading in their phonics groups that week. If your child has completed the RWI programme, they will come home with a **Gold** or **White** banded book. Your child will also bring a reading for pleasure book for you to enjoy together. Books are changed once a week on a **Friday***. **Please ensure books are in book bags each day.**

*As we only have limited copies, if your child does not return their book, we cannot give them a new one and will send photocopies home instead.

Polite Request

Before and after school, please do not let your children climb on the outdoor equipment in the playgrounds. This is particularly important when the ground is wet and icy as, in accordance with our health and safety risk assessments, these would be out of bounds for pupils during the school day in such circumstances.



Autumn 1 KIRF Targets

Please find time to practise your KIRF targets at home.

Year 2:

- Count on and back from 0 in 2s, 5s, and 10s.
- Count on and back in ones and tens from any given 2-digit number.



Celebration Assemblies

Celebration assemblies are a Friday favourite at Greenside where the teachers love to share how proud they are of the many achievements of our brilliant pupils!

These take place fortnightly and **parents/carers are invited via Arbor** to celebrate with their child.