



**St Catherine's School**  
Haslewood Avenue  
Hoddesdon  
Hertfordshire  
EN11 8HT  
**Acting Headteacher:**  
Mrs Devonshire

**Curriculum Information Newsletter – Year 2**  
**Autumn Term – 2023/24**

Dear Family,

We hope that you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It has been wonderful having the children back in school and so far we have been delighted with the children's attitudes towards learning.

Family life can be busy, so for that reason we hope you find this information useful. We value your support and enthusiasm for your child's learning and we hope you will support us in our efforts to encourage excellent learning attitudes at school and at home. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead!

We hope this letter provides you with some key information about the coming school term.

The staff working in Year 2 this year are:

Teachers

- Lowewood class teacher – Mrs Bacon
- Pound Close class teacher – Mr Scott
- Miss Blackallar will be working in both classes this term

Support Staff

- Ms O'Rourke will be supporting both classes throughout the week.

### Reading

Reading is extremely important as it not only opens up a world of wonder and stimulates the mind but has also been proven to: improve comprehension skills; reduce stress; improve knowledge of the world around us; expand vocabulary; improve one's punctuation use, memory, focus and concentration. Children will be bringing home a 'learning to read book' which they are expected to read at least 3 times a week with an adult. They may sometimes bring an additional reading for pleasure book that they may wish to share with you. We expect children to read regularly at home both with an adult and by themselves. The more you support your child's reading by listening to them read and talking about their books with them, the more you will emphasise the importance of this vital life skill. We recommend that you read with your child at least three times a week, but obviously, the more, the better! Please sign your child's home reading record every time you do read with them.

In school, children will take part in daily guided reading sessions and be exposed to a wide variety of text types in lessons across the curriculum. They will read with an adult at least once a week every week but it will often be more frequently than this.



Let your light shine



## Writing

This term we will be focusing on developing your child's handwriting and basic sentence structure. We will give children opportunities to write in a variety of different contexts to help them develop their confidence and fluency. Our aim is for all children to feel like confident successful writers who can communicate their thoughts.

We will continue to teach phonics during literacy hour to develop children's spelling and reading.

## Maths

We are continuing to use resources from Maths No Problem and the NCETM this year to support our teaching of maths and deepen mathematical understanding across the school. The focus this term will be on developing your child's understanding of basic number and place value. Ensuring children can quickly recall number bonds to 10 is a vital skill at this stage and something they can easily practise at home.

Alongside this, quick recall of times tables is critical as children move through school; having a secure knowledge of these will allow children to focus on new mathematical concepts. By the end of year 2, children should have good understanding of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Please support your child by encouraging them to practise their times tables at home. Using Times Tables RockStars is one fun way children can practise these; log ins will be sent out for this in the coming weeks. 'Battles' between classes and individual and class high scores are announced every Friday in assembly.

## Foundation subjects

This term children will be learning all about monarchs in history lessons and will be embarking on a fantastic trip to the Tower of London. They will then begin to discover more about our wonderful world in geography lessons, which will include exploring the world's most amazing places and understanding what is amazing about our local area.

In art children will be given the opportunity to experiment with different mediums including printing and felt whilst they will be developing their construction skills in D&T lessons.

Science lessons this term will focus on the use of everyday materials. Children will learn about some properties of materials and begin to start making predictions and developing their own scientific questions to investigate and answer.

During our R.E lessons, we will be focusing on Christianity. For the first part of this term, we will be learning about creation, in particular, who made the world? We will then be exploring the topic of incarnation, specifically focusing on, why does Christmas matter to Christians?

## P.E and swimming

For the first half term, children will be **swimming every Thursday afternoon** and will have **P.E every Friday afternoon**. After half term, children will stop swimming but will continue to have two sessions of P.E a week – Thursday and Friday afternoons. Please ensure that your child is sent into school in the appropriate P.E kit on P.E days.

## Communication

We are excited to be back at school and to start working with your children. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support this year. If you have any questions or queries at any point, please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office.

Mrs Bacon, Mr Scott and Miss Blackaller