

Class Newsletter September 2025

Welcome to Year Two at OLSE

Welcome back to a new school year, we hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the challenges ahead.

As you are aware, your child's new class teachers are Mrs Harrison and Miss Callaghan (on Mondays) with teaching assistant Miss Carroll. We have been busy planning and preparing together and are all very excited to begin the new academic year working in partnership with you to ensure your child has a happy year of learning and good progress, inspired by our Mission: 'Guided by Jesus in all that we do, together we are one... one school... one community... one world.'

Across school our topic theme this term is '**How is the past remembered?**' and in Year Two we will be linking all of our learning to '**The Great Fire of London**'.

Religious Education - 'Come & See':



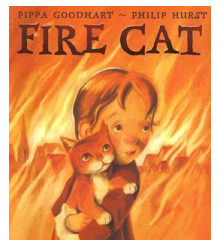
R.E. at OLSE is delivered through the scheme: 'Come & See'. Our first topic is '**Beginnings**', this topic will explore how God is with us at every beginning we make and how we can celebrate and share the many beginnings each day offers. We will be learning about the story of Creation and some of the related psalms and how God, who is present at our beginning, knows and loves each one of us.

Following on will be the topic '**Signs & Symbols**'. We will be thinking about the beginning of our journey of faith by exploring the signs and symbols of Baptism. We will be learning about how the Church family welcomes a new baby and the significance of Baptism with water, listening to the Word of God, anointing with Chrism, lighting the baptismal candle and clothing with the white garment. We take part in daily prayers and regular class/whole school worship.



Literacy:

We will be developing speaking and listening, reading and writing skills through exploring the story of 'Fire Cat by Pippa Goodhart', using the text to develop pupils' understanding of diary writing (writing in the first person, past tense, sequencing events and sharing thoughts and feelings). You might like to encourage your child to keep their own diary or journal at home.



Later we will be exploring some traditional London tales e.g.

Dick Whittington. We will be using the texts to develop pupils' understanding of 'character', 'setting' and 'story structure'. In particular, the children will be using the 'story mountain' to help them understand, plan and write their own stories. Throughout these literacy topics the children will complete regular spelling, punctuation and grammar work and regular handwriting tasks. We will

also continue to deliver daily targeted phonics and spelling sessions in line with the school 'Little Wandle' scheme to support word reading and word spelling skills.

Topic Learning:

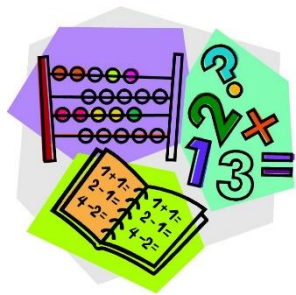
We will be using the theme of '**The Great Fire of London**' to drive learning in the wider curriculum, enabling the children to make meaningful links across subjects and giving purposeful context to their learning. In **History** the children will be finding out when, where and how the fire began, how it spread and how it changed London. They will be learning how to put events in chronological order and how to use a variety of sources to learn about The Great Fire. In **Computing** the children will be learning about online safety and will be using their technology skills to help them research about The Great Fire. In **Science** the children will be learning about the uses of everyday materials including: brick, rock, wood, plastic, paper, metal and glass (thinking about how materials in homes have changed since The Great Fire). They will be identifying and comparing materials according to their properties and setting up an investigation to find out which is the best material to make a bucket to carry water for putting out a fire. They will be learning about flammable materials and about fire safety. In **Art** the children will be creating a collage to depict a scene from The Great Fire of London developing their knowledge of primary and secondary colours, textures, pattern and collage. Learning about the work of the artist Romare Bearden.



Please see our separate Year Two Topic Knowledge Organisers for more information and key vocabulary that will enable you to support your child in their learning about The Great Fire of London and related topic learning.

Mathematics:

The main focus this half-term will be to develop sound arithmetic skills, focusing on number, place value, addition and subtraction. Our learning objectives will include: being able to count to 100 and write numbers in numerals and words; representing numbers to 100 using apparatus; thinking about the number of tens and ones in two-digit numbers, securing an understanding of place value; comparing objects and numbers using great than and less than symbols; sequencing numbers, counting in 2s, 3s, 5s, 10s; learning fact families e.g. numbers that make 10 and 20; checking calculations; comparing number sentences; adding and subtracting one more and one less, ten more and ten less; adding and subtracting 2-digit and 1-digit numbers using counting on and counting back, bridging ten. As always, your child's maths learning will be matched to their needs and the focus will be on securing good numeracy skills with **regular practise** and then **applying their skills to solving problems** in different contexts. There are always practical ways at home in which we can support our children with numeracy, such as shopping trips that allow them to make small purchases and collect change; shape hunting; comparing shoe sizes; reading timetables; playing with the bathroom scales; measuring ingredients when cooking. Making numeracy real and relevant is a great motivator and we try to encourage this in class.



Reading, Spellings and Homework: Enjoying and reading books is, as we know, so important in children's learning - we would hope that pupils continue to read at home for at least ten minutes daily. They will be given 2 books to read at home each week (an individual book and guided reading book), please make sure they bring them to school every day with their organiser. You may find that sometimes your child may bring home a book they have already read. Research has shown that the re-reading and enjoyment of familiar texts is very important and helps to improve reading confidence, comprehension, fluency and enjoyment. (Racing through the reading levels does not help to develop these skills.)



Guided Reading to the teacher will take place weekly - with reading targets recorded in their school organiser, and there will be regular opportunities to read to adults in school. Your child may also have **key word lists and phonics cards** that need to be practiced ideally on a daily basis to improve decoding skills and reading fluency.

Spellings & Number Facts: Each week your child will receive spellings and number facts/times tables to learn - in their school organiser. Spelling & number check-up tests will be on Fridays.

Homework: Homework tasks will be set in your child's homework books and will be related to literacy, topic or number work that we are learning during the week in order to help them practise and consolidate their learning. This will be set on Fridays to be returned by the following Wednesday.

Medication: Please ensure your child has their medication in school if required (e.g. asthma inhalers) and please contact the school office to update us regarding any health or well-being needs - especially if there have been any changes during the holiday period.

Forest School: Every Monday morning (see separate information letter) - **first session 15.9.25**

PE Kit: It is essential that each child has correct PE kit for our weekly sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays. Our aim is to develop children's fundamental movement skills in order to improve their physical literacy, as well as developing a range of personal and social skills and raising fitness levels - we are sure you would agree, PE is very important for your child's wellbeing.

On Mondays your child will need to wear their Forest School Kit for their morning session (waterproof coat, plain joggers, t-shirt, plain hoodie/jumper and trainers with wellies to change into for outdoor forest school activities).

Online Updates:

Please remember to check our school web-site, 'X' and Instagram for news and updates.

Wishing everyone a successful start to the new academic year.

The Year Two Team

Thought this might be useful to stick on your fridge or pin on your notice board at home!

| YEAR 2 REMINDER CHART | |
|--|---|
| Monday | Reading Books Changed FOREST SCHOOL KIT (Trainers for inside and wellies for outside.) |
| Tuesday | P.E. KIT |
| Wednesday | Return Homework |
| Thursday | |
| Friday | Homework Set PE KIT Spelling and Number Test |
| Aim for 10 minutes daily reading at home throughout the week - at least read x3 weekly. 'Children are made readers on the laps of their parents,' Emilie Buchwald. | |