



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
Prep

Year Two Curriculum Notes

Topic Work: Our Topic lessons are designed to incorporate the subjects of English, Science, History, Geography, Art and Design & Technology. We work on a joint two-year rolling cycle with Year 1 and have a new topic each term.

Cycle 2024-2025 and subsequently on alternate years:

Autumn Term: **Yum Yum!** In this Autumn term we learn all about food. The children access the topic through teddy bears, learning about a variety of bears, both factual and fictional, and the food they eat. We look at honey and bees, sandwiches and bread and cover healthy eating, cooking, international food and food associated with festivals, especially Christmas. This helps give the children an appreciation of the origins of their food. We also go on a school trip and hope to visit Mill Green Museum and Mill which will afford the children an opportunity to see a working watermill and to make their own bread.

Spring Term: **London:** In the Spring term we learn about London. With the help of Paddington Bear and the underground map, we learn about a variety of aspects of London including its location, history and famous landmarks. We also go on a school trip and hope to visit the National Gallery. Should you wish to take your child on a trip that is related to our topic, we can suggest taking the tube into London after a couple of weeks – the children will be keen to show off their navigation skills!

Summer Term: **'Nature Watch':** This Summer term we find out about plants, animals and minibeasts in our local environment and our trip takes us to Woolley Firs Environmental Education Centre. We explore planting and growing, animal classification and life cycles, as well as fictional stories about nature and wildlife. We also explore a selection of major world habitats. The children create a 'Nature Watch' presentation to record what they have learnt.

Cycle 2025-2026 and subsequently on alternate years:

Autumn Term: **Pirates!** In this Autumn term we learn all about a pirate's travels around the world. The children follow the progress of our very own pirate, and use it as a starting point to research geographical facts about various countries around the world as well as historical facts about pirates. We also go on a school trip to visit the Golden Hinde in London to experience life on board first hand.



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Spring Term: **Space:** In the Spring term we learn about Space. The topic will include a visiting Planetarium and a Rocket Workshop. There will be a focus on writing non-fiction before half term, when the boys will be given the opportunity to create a factual book about space, and a focus on writing fiction after half term.

Summer Term: **Knights and Castles:** The Summer term's topic takes us back to Medieval times and includes a trip to Windsor Castle. We learn about life as a squire, all about knights, the features of Medieval castles and about our Royal Family. We create a class presentation to record what we have learnt.

English: We follow 'Read, Write, Inc' which is a synthetic phonics programme covering phonics, spelling, reading, comprehension, grammar and writing based on a weekly text. The children will also read regularly with an adult and will take home daily readers of their own choice. In the Summer term there is a focus on speaking to an audience and presentation skills.

Maths: Our curriculum is based on the White Rose Maths Scheme and is reinforced by using the IXL Maths computer programme.

Autum Term: **Focuses on Addition and Subtraction, to include:**

- Revising reading and writing 2-digit numbers
- Revising representing numbers using Place Value charts and Part Whole models
- Estimating, comparing, and ordering numbers using number lines
- Exploring Fact Families
- Adding and subtracting across ten
- An introduction to bar modelling

Spring Term: **Focuses on Multiplication and Division, to include:**

- Representing multiplication using groups and arrays
- Grouping and Sharing
- Doubling and Halving
- Odd and Even numbers
- Learning our 2x, 10x, 5x, 3x, and 4x tables

Summer Term: **Revisiting Addition and Subtraction, to include:**

- Reading and writing 3-digit numbers
- Representing and partitioning 3-digit numbers
- Estimating, comparing and ordering 3-digit numbers
- Vertical (column) addition and subtraction with regrouping
- Solving worded problems
- Bar modelling



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We aim for the children to have rote learnt at pace number bonds bridging ten and the 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x and 10x tables by the end of the year.

Religious Education (RE): In Year 2 we focus on developing the children's knowledge of Religious Festivals and Places of Worship.

Autumn Term: We discuss religious identity and learn about the Festivals of Diwali, Hannukah and Christmas as well as learning about the features of a Mosque.

Spring Term: We learn about the Festivals of Chinese New Year, Ramadan and Easter and about the features of Gurdwaras and Buddhist Temples.

Summer Term: We learn about the Festivals of Wesak and Vaisakhi and about the features of Synagogues, Churches and Mandirs.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE): Our PSHE curriculum is based on Coram Life Education & SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) which is designed to promote positive behaviour, mental health, wellbeing, resilience and achievement. It incorporates age appropriate RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) in line with Government statutory guidance.

Autumn Term: We explore the concepts of Friendship and Feelings:

- What makes a good friend
- Exploring our feelings
- Problem Resolution

Spring Term: We explore Physical Health & Mental Wellbeing:

- What does my body need and what does my body do?
- Keeping Teeth Healthy
- Vaccinations and Immunisation
- Managing Feelings and asking for help.

Summer Term: We explore the issues of Safe Relationships and Respect:

- Recognising Hurtful Behaviour.
- Managing Secrets and Resisting Pressure.
- Respecting Ourselves and Others.
- Sharing Opinions and Working Cooperatively.

Philosophy for Children (P4C): P4C aims to develop a Community of Enquiry, where children show curiosity and can have rational reasonable discussions, appreciating and considering the views of others, before reaching a conclusion.



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Each term our children will get opportunities to take part in activities to develop each stage of the enquiry as well as taking part in a full enquiry, which are usually based on our Topic work.

This will:

- develop their ability to ask insightful questions
- allow them to identify types of questions (closed, open & philosophical)
- develop their ability to express ideas and opinions
- practise listening to and responding to the ideas of others through group work and whole class discussions.
- help them appreciate different points of view and make reasoned decisions.

Computing:

Autumn Term: We will continue to develop the boys' keyboard skills and word processing skills including using computer-based art programmes. The boys will also use the computers to research information, learning how to 'safe-search'. They will be using cameras to record images and will be incorporating them into their work. We will learn about E-Safety and spend time using a variety of applications on the iPads.

Spring Term: Continue to develop keyboard and word processing skills. They will also continue to develop their understanding of what algorithms are; how they are implemented as programs on digital devices; and that programs execute by following precise and unambiguous instructions. The boys will also use logical reasoning to predict the behaviour of simple programs. They will use the IXL Maths programme to support their learning this term.

Summer Term: The boys will continue to develop their programming skills. They will explore visual communication, using multimedia apps on the iPads and will learn how to make an eBook or comic. They will also learn the basics of how to create an effective presentation.

Music:

Autumn Term: In the first half of the Autumn term, Year two will be continuing to develop their listening, rhythmic and concentration skills. They will also be learning more about pitch (lower and higher notes). In the second part of the Autumn term, we will be focusing on learning new songs for the forthcoming Y1 and Y2 Christmas production.



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Spring Term: In the first half of term, we will be exploring rhythmic patterns using percussive instruments in the music room.
In the second half of term, we will be building on their knowledge of beat and rhythm, and pitch, and will begin to use tuned instruments (glockenspiels) and percussive instruments to compose our own compositions.

Summer Term: This term we will be continuing to develop listening, rhythmic and concentration skills. We will begin to consolidate rhythm building and note values and understand the concept of pitch. We will be listening to The Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky to help bring these new concepts together.

PE/Games:

Autumn Term: In PE we will be developing fundamental movement skills, specifically: balance, agility and coordination. We will also be starting to talk about health and wellbeing, relating to our bodies and how we respond to exercise.

In Games we will be introducing the boys to football, focusing on ball skills including passing and dribbling, with a further introduction to small sided games.

Spring Term: In PE we will be focusing on gymnastics, relating to body control and individual/partner balancing.

In Games the focus will be touch rugby, focusing on skills such as evasive running, tagging and ball handling.

Summer Term: In PE we will be focusing on athletic events such as running, throwing and jumping. This will be combined with a focus on team work ahead of the boys sports day. We will also introduce the boys to rounders skills including batting, bowling and fielding.

In Games we will be focusing on Cricket skills, specifically batting, bowling and fielding also. With the skills learnt this term in rounders and cricket being transferrable.

French:

Autumn Term: The boys will look at the topics of introducing themselves, greetings, numbers and family. They will also discover how Christmas is celebrated in France. There will be a focus on a different European language to celebrate European Day of Languages in September.

Spring Term: The boys will be learning about the topics of parts of the body, animals, days of the week and colours. There will also be a focus on a



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traditional French song. We will also talk about Mardi Gras also known as Pancake Tuesday.

Summer Term: We will look at the following topics in French - the pencil case items, the weather, sport and ice cream flavours.

Forest School:

Autumn Term: They will be exploring the wider natural environment and learning about the signs of Autumn. This will include harvesting blackberries to make jam, and apples, which they will turn into juice using a press. They will also learn to use tools to harvest the willow and make a wreath. Their regular sessions in the woods will enhance their knowledge and understanding of the natural world and develop their sense of awe and wonder.

Spring Term: They will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of the seasons and the natural world. They will participate in orienteering activities, learn more about the trees in our woods and the birds that nest there. This will include caring for the birds. They will also make Easter Gardens.

Summer Term: They will learn how to safely light a fire using a fire steel and will enjoy cooking on the fire. They will continue to explore the wider natural environment, including using sweep nets in the meadow and harvesting elderflowers to make cordial.

The sessions throughout the year will enable the boys to develop their curiosity, empathy, collaboration, perseverance, risk-taking and independence.

Learning Dispositions:

Our Learning Dispositions are all characterised by animal 'learning friends' and are integral to our teaching and learning. Each week during the year we take the opportunity to focus on a particular disposition:

Autumn Term:

- Concentration: attentiveness, self-control, conscientiousness, mindfulness
- Perseverance: determination, patience, resilience, loyalty
- Empathy: gratitude, kindness, generosity, forgiveness, humility

Spring Term:

- Communication and Collaboration: respect, manners, fairness and teamwork.



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- Independence: responsibility, organisation and duty
- Wisdom: initiative, leadership and evaluation

Summer Term:

- Curiosity: enthusiasm, enquiry, exploration
- Imagination: hopefulness, adaptability, open-mindedness
- Risk Taking: honesty, bravery, trust

Homework:

Homework is set weekly via Seesaw to be completed throughout the following week.

This is likely to comprise of short Maths and English activities and Spellings. It is designed to introduce the children to the concept of homework and good working practises.

We also send home reading books and expect the children to read daily.