

Welcome to Sparrow Class



2023-24

Year 2

Teacher: Miss Underwood

Teaching assistant: Miss Nicholls



Hello and welcome to Sparrow Class!

I am very pleased to be welcoming you into Sparrow Class this September. I am sure that we will have lots of fun learning and discovering new things together. My aim is to help you to achieve your absolute best at school. Through committing to learning, working well with others in the class and always trying hard, anything is possible! I want to help you to feel proud of themselves and I will promote a positive can-do attitude towards learning. I expect every member of Sparrow Class to be respectful and considerate of each other by following the school rules and looking out for each other; together we are going to make a great team!

Here's a reminder of our school rules:



Ready



Respectful



Safe

Information for Parents and Carers

Mathematics

Maths is all around us in! In Sparrow Class, pupils will learn the value of maths in everyday life as well and use both practical, pictorial and written methods to solve real life and more abstract problems and challenges.

As pupils move through Key Stage 1, it is really important that pupils know how to form numbers correctly, and practising this both at school and at home will help with this. Please see below for an example of the correct number formation pupils will be expected to use:



The key areas of maths that will be taught this year are:

- Place value – Reading, writing, ordering and comparing numbers up to and beyond 100.
- Addition and subtraction – Adding and subtracting numbers within 100, including two two-digit numbers.
- Multiplication and division – Recalling and using multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.
- Fractions – Finding halves, quarters and thirds of shapes, numbers and quantities.
- Measurement – Comparing, describing and solving problems for length and height, capacity and volume and mass and weight including reading scales. Telling the time to quarter past and quarter to the hour. Recognising and using symbols for pounds (£) and pence (p) and finding different combinations of coins that equal the same amounts of money.
- Geometry – Naming 2-D and 3-D shapes and identifying their properties, including lines of symmetry.

There are lots of fun ways you can improve your mathematical fluency, including using these websites:

Websites to support maths learning at home

TT rockstars - <https://trockstars.com/> - fluency of times tables (your child will be given a login in September if they don't already have one).

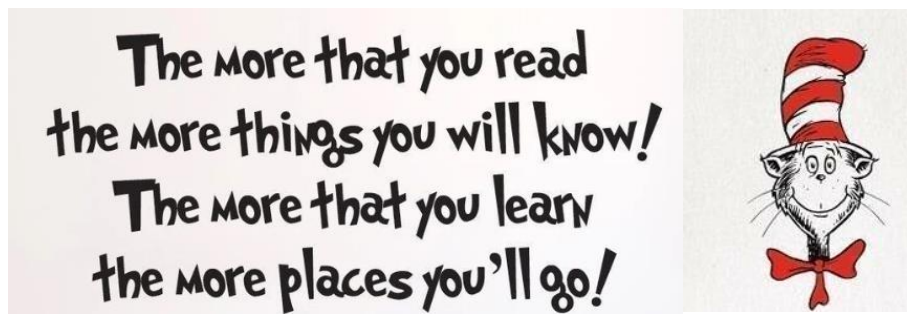
Numbots - <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> - fluency of number facts and subitising (recognising numbers without counting them). Same login as TT Rockstars.

Hit the Button - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button> - fluency of number bonds, times tables and other number facts

Top Marks- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting> - lots of counting, number recognition, place value and adding games

Reading

I love reading and will encourage all pupils to read at home and in class as much as possible! In the words of Dr Seuss,



I really enjoy discovering new books as well as sharing old favourites. One of my favourite parts of the school day is class story time.

Reading at home is super important and I would like you to please commit to spending a minimum of 10 minutes a day reading together at home. Please use your reading record to write in all home reading. Reading records will be checked weekly and reading books will be changed on **Fridays**. This will allow your child to re-read each text several times, building their confidence and fluency. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelled in different ways.

Here are some book recommendations that you might enjoy reading together over the summer:



Phonics

Phonics is about children knowing how letters link to sounds (graphemes to phonemes), e.g. c as in 'cat', 'ai' as in 'rain', ee as in 'sheep'. Once children begin learning sounds, they are used quickly to read and spell words. There are two key skills children need to learn:

Blending- merging together the separate sounds (phonemes) in order.

Segmenting- saying the individual sounds in words separately. Segmenting is a skill used in spelling. In order to spell the word cat, it is necessary to segment the word into its constituent sounds; c-a-t. Before writing a word young children need time to think about it, say the word several times, segment the word and then write it.

We teach from a phonics and spelling programme called **Essential Letters and Sounds**. This new phonics programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers.

In **Year 2**, pupils will be following the ELS Spelling Scheme.

Websites to support phonics and reading at home

Alphablocks <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

Oxford Owl for Home. <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

DfE phonics lessons https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw

Mr Thorne does phonics (youtube)

Writing

In Year 2 writing, there is more emphasis on pupils building their stamina for writing and on being able to write for a variety of purposes. Pupils will be taught to use a wider range of punctuation in their writing including question marks, exclamation marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contraction (e.g. didn't, he'll) and apostrophes for possession (the girl's book). Pupils will also be encouraged to challenge themselves by using a wider range of vocabulary to make their writing more appealing to the reader.

In Key Stage 1, it is very important that pupils learn to form their letters correctly. This will help them to begin joining their handwriting towards the end of Year 2 and in preparation for continuing their writing development in Key Stage 2. Please see below for the school font which you can refer to when helping your child to practise their handwriting at home.



Spelling

In Key Stage 1, pupils are expected to learn a set of spellings each week that they will then be tested on in a spelling test at school on a Friday. The spellings that pupils learn at home begin with the common exception words which are words that cannot be spelt by sounding out. This means that pupils need to learn and just 'know' how to spell these words rather than trying to spell them by using their phonics knowledge or knowledge of specific spelling rules.

In Year 2, pupils will learn a set of five spellings starting with List 1. Your child will need to get all of the spellings correct in the list before moving on to the next list. If they do spell all of their list correctly, they will move on to the next list which they will then be tested on the following week. The aim is for your child to get through all of the lists by the end of the year so it is vital that you help your child to learn their spellings.

During the spelling tests, for lists 1-10, the spellings lists will be read out so pupils just need to write the list that they have learnt. When the pupils reach list 11, the spellings will then be read to pupils in sentences and they will be expected to write out the whole sentence, as this is a valuable skill. Only the key words will be tested for correct spellings. Spelling words correctly in context shows they have learnt them effectively.

These are the words that Year 2 pupils will be tested on throughout the year:

List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6
said your house was full	one friend school by you	today pull my come here	where are they once put	love ask some our says	class fast children could any
List 7	List 8	List 9	List 10	List 11	List 12
pass behind father told who	both beautiful kind break every	whole would wild find improve	money cold Christmas gold even	climb clothes water again bath	after half hour hold sure
List 13	List 14	List 15	List 16	List 17	List 18
sugar steak should everybody child	most people great only prove	past poor plant path water	pretty parents Mr Mrs old	door busy because many floor	move grass last eye mind
List 19	List 20	List 21	List 22	List 23	List 24
judge circle gentle knight didn't	cycle know couldn't table why	large gnome knee they're candle	reply shouldn't apple writing shining	July I'll liked bravest monkey	nicer scary donkey quite dropped
List 25	List 26	List 27	List 28	List 29	List 30
smoky quiet patting want usual	little valley watch flies playful	squash happily hopeless you'll station	colourful they'll middle treasure worried	carries always warm word camel	fiction towards hospital other parcel
List 31	List 32	List 33	List 34	List 35	List 36
fraction walk	talk worst	brother flower	world circle	nothing kindness	magical could've

metal pencil village	animal puddle flour	giant bridge city	chimney babies careful	enjoyment Monday you've	honey nastily skipped
List 37	List 38				
should've lotion mother television measure	achievement education mustn't competition vision				

I am looking for lots of commitment to help you achieve getting all the way to list 38!

PE

Please make sure that full PE kit is in school each week. Please make sure that any earrings are removed on PE days or that tape to safely cover them up before PE lessons is provided.

Other Curriculum Areas

Each term, we will have a different topic that we will base a lot of our learning on. I am really looking forward to starting our first topic 'The Great Fire of London' in September. We will learn about how the Great Fire of London started and why it spread so quickly. We will also learn about life in 1666 and how we know about the events of the fire. In Geography, we will learn about the four capital cities of the UK, with a particular focus on London.

In the spring term, our topic will be 'How to Change the World.' We will compare the lives and achievements of Mary Anning (a famous palaeontologist who discovered the first fossils) and David Attenborough and learn about how their work has had an impact on the environment and how we live today. We will also study world maps to recognise and name the world's seven continents and five oceans and identify the location of hot and cold countries of the world in relation to the North and South Pole and the equator.

In the summer term, our topic will be 'Forests'. During this topic, we will study our local area and locate Cinderford on a map of the UK. We will also use our fieldwork and observational skills to draw a simple map of our school using a key and use locational and directional language to describe how to get from our classroom to the forest schools' area. In history, we will learn about what life was like for children in the Victorian era and compare St White's School today to St White's School in the late 1800s.

To support the work that the children are doing in school on their topic they will also be given an optional homework POWER project to complete during each term. This project will be linked to the topic and is a chance for children to apply a variety of skills including research, creativity and maths.

Forest School and the allotment

We are very lucky to have such amazing school grounds and in Sparrow Class we enjoy using the outdoor areas as much as possible to enhance our learning. As well as completing some of our day to day lessons outside, we will also have the opportunity to take part in Forest School and allotment sessions at different times throughout the year. Sparrow Class is very lucky to have

Forest School starting in September and running until half term. Please see the separate letter with information about Forest School.

Thank you for taking the time to read all of the information contained in this letter. I hope it has answered any questions that you may have about joining Sparrow Class. However, if you do have any further questions, please email me at sparrow@st-whites.gloucs.sch.uk and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Best wishes

Miss Underwood

Challenge, Commit, Conquer, Celebrate