

Abbey Gate Prep School
Welcome to Flamingos
Year 2

Class Information

Dear Parents

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 2, we all hope that your child will enjoy their time in Year 2 and will build on the skills and knowledge they have learnt in Year 1.

Year 2 is the final year in Key Stage 1 and children have usually settled into the Abbey Gate way of life, those children joining us in Year 2 will have time to become accustomed before moving on to Key Stage 2.

If there is anything else you need to know please make an appointment to come and see us.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Pat Morris

The Curriculum

Your child will study a wide range of subjects during their time in Year 2. Being aware of what is being taught can help you to support your child's learning. Teaching methods will vary according to the needs and learning styles of the children. Some teaching involves the whole class and some is in mixed age groups with the focus on the individual learning of each child. Regular assessment enables us to monitor and extend the learning of each pupil.

The Core Subjects

Literacy, Numeracy and Science are all taught by Mrs Morris during morning sessions to Year 2 pupils.

Literacy

Children are encouraged to write independently with emphasis on sentence structure developing into story writing. Grammar taught includes the correct use of capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas and speech marks. Your child will be introduced to the use of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives and plurals. We have been using an exciting programme that encourages the children to use more descriptive language and a variety of connectives to link up the different parts of their writing. They are also taught to write in different styles by writing letters, posters, booklets and information leaflets. During their time in Year 2 children will be taught to develop their handwriting skills and produce cursive writing.

Your child will progress through Oxford Reading Tree, Ginn 360 and New Way reading schemes, according to their individual reading level. Those children that complete these during the year are encouraged to choose from a variety of graded 'Free Reading' books. There are many varied opportunities for your child to read at school each day. All children read, individually, to a teacher, usually me, at least 4 times every week. During this time they are guided into using

strategies to help them read, we use a home/school book to record daily reading activities and pages read. You are asked to do the same as well as to make comments on their progress. It is very important that the children take both books home every night, in this way more progress can be achieved.

Phonic activities are a key part in learning to read and spell, phonic lessons are once or twice a week, depending on the individual progress of the children.

Spellings are based on the phonic sound of the week, they are sent home for learning over the weekend. Tests are usually on a Monday.

Numeracy

Your child will be taught regularly in lessons that are planned to support and challenge them according to their individual ability in this subject. We use the New Heinemann scheme which is in line with the National Curriculum. The exciting and colourful workbooks give plenty of chance for the children to produce written answers. Assessments are completed regularly. There are a variety of areas covered these include numbers and number systems; solving problems; measures; shape and space; handling data; multiplication and division of numbers. Children will take part in a variety of practical activities including use of the interactive whiteboard and apparatus. Multiplication tables are taught gradually and tests take place as and when the children are ready. Beginning with 2, 5 & 10 times tables, and moving on to 3, 4,6,7,8 & 9 for those that have understood the easier ones.

Homework based on the current topic is set regularly and should be completed to the best of you child's understanding.

Science

Year 2 children are developing quickly and always keen to discover everything they can about the world around them. During the year a variety of topics will be covered, in which investigational skills are developed. These include living things, ourselves, electricity, materials, forces, light and dark. They always enjoy experiments that help them to answer questions and to link this to simple scientific ideas. Assessment is continuous and homework reflects topics covered, encouragement and support from home is always appreciated.

The Foundation Subjects

These subjects are taught primarily by Miss Coppack during times when Year 1 & 2 are combined. Although they are sometimes taught the same lessons Miss Coppack expects that Year 2 will produce more advanced and mature work. As classes are small this is possible and does not inhibit the children in any way.

Physical Education

During the Autumn and Spring Terms this takes place in the sports hall at the 'Northgate Arena' in Chester. Children are transported by coach and accompanied by a specialist sports coach. P.E. sessions cover a variety of games and gymnastics. During the summer term the children walk to a local playing field where they play a variety of games and take part in athletic activities. The following kit will be needed, please ensure that your child's name is clearly on each item:

White t shirt

White shorts

Pumps and trainers

Abbey Gate School royal blue tracksuit

Blue cagoule or thin waterproof

Children should leave their P.E. kit in school; it can be taken for washing each half term.

After school sports club is available with a specialist teacher, at a nominal extra cost.

French

Your child will receive regular French lessons with Miss Coppack. They learn through interactive games, songs and visual aids and will be taught vocabulary and sentence structures related to daily routines and colours.

Information Communication Technology

Your child will have an hour's lesson each week in our computer suite; they will also have use of an interactive whiteboard in the classroom. This is used by the children in many lessons.

History

In Year 2 the children learn about peoples lives and lifestyles, also how the past is different from the present. In particular they will learn about Florence Nightingale, the Normans and The Great Fire of London.

Geography

This year the children will investigate their local area and a contrasting area, namely Brazil. Finding out about the environment in both areas and the people who live in them. Looking at island homes is also part of the curriculum.

History and Geography are taught mainly through a topic themed approach. For example we will learn about 'The seaside' by looking at maps and finding out about the history of holidays by the sea.

Design Technology and Art

In Year 2, your child will develop their creativity and imagination by exploring the visual, tactile and sensory qualities of materials and processes. They begin to understand colour, space and shape and how to represent their ideas using a variety of materials. This subject is closely linked to other areas of the curriculum.

Music

The children are guided in music by a specialist music teacher and pianist. Teaching ensures that listening and applying knowledge is developed through performing to others. We regularly have concerts and frequently invite parents into school to listen to the children perform. At Christmas Year 2 take important roles in the school Christmas Play, as well as performing at the Carol Service in All Saints Church in Hoole, Chester. Specialist Peripatetic music teachers are available for individual lessons on the piano, trumpet and violin. A specialist drama coach is available for extra lessons, at an extra cost.

Homework

Your child will be asked to read to a family member or close friend every night for at least 10 minutes, pages read should be recorded in the home/school book. There will also be a literacy, numeracy or science activity each night; this should take no more than 20 minutes. It is linked to the work taking place during the day and reinforces facts learned. It is important that homework is completed regularly, to gain the most from our structured programme of learning. There is a tray in the classroom for completed work to be handed in first thing in the morning. The home/school book can be used to note any problems your child has encountered in completing their homework. Other issues that you might want to communicate to me can also be noted. Letters that parents need to see are placed into the children's book bags and we ask that you check each night for them.

Educational Visits

Year 2 are often taken on visits, usually with other classes, you will be informed of this and may be asked to pay the cost of the trip. Trips are usually related to one of the topics being studied in school and are an excellent way of reinforcing learning in a more varied and interesting way. Recent trips have been to Liverpool Museum, Cae Hic Stables, The Welsh Mountain Zoo and Chester Cathedral.

Assessment

Your child will be continually assessed to avoid stress and pressure. You will be able to discuss these with me during our parents evening in March. However if you are concerned in any way please make an appointment to see me at any time during the year. I am always interested in talking to you about your child.

Standard Assessment Tests (SAT's)

In May the children in Year 2 at Abbey Gate School take part in these National tests. Past results have been excellent, we feel these reflect our high standards and the way our children have been prepared during their time at Abbey Gate Prep School.

Tests comprise of:

Reading - a level 2 oral reading and comprehension task. Also a written comprehension test on fiction and non-fiction texts. For those children who perform well in these there is the opportunity to tackle the level 3 comprehension test.

Writing - there are 2 tasks for independent writing, a longer task to recount a story or write a letter or report. The shorter task is to write a postcard, instructions or a riddle.

Children are assessed on sentence and story structure, use of connectives and vocabulary and ability to use a range of punctuation correctly. There is also a written spelling test.

Numeracy - a level 2 written test is completed by all children; help can be given to read the questions. Those that perform well are able to complete a level 3 test. These reflect work completed during the year.

Results are sent to parents on a sheet that is included in your child's report at the end of term. I am always pleased to discuss this with you. The national average is a level 2B (2C is acceptable but a little below average, similarly 2A or a level 3 is above average).

Children at Abbey Gate are not put under any pressure during the SAT's period; we will not be informing parents of the exact dates to avoid any stress. The best results are when children are oblivious to being tested at all!

We are always pleased to talk to parents about their child's progress and any pastoral care concerns. The home/school book is useful but if you would like to telephone the school to make an appointment that is fine too. Year 2 is a time for children to become more independent and it may be that you would like to talk to me about your child's development in school. We would like to encourage you to give your child more responsibility in looking after their possessions and remembering messages between home and school. All children mature at different rates therefore this needs to be an individual process.

We look forward to another successful year for Year 2 at Abbey Gate.