


# Year 2 Autumn Overview

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
English	<p><b>Non-Fiction - Informative Letter - <i>Katie Morag Delivers the Mail</i></b>            In this non-fiction writing unit, we will be learning how to write informal letters. The children will receive a letter from Katie Morag, from the Isle of Struay in Scotland, where she tells us all about her family and where she lives. After reading her letter, we will learn about the structure of an informal letter, including how to start with a greeting, include personal information, and finish with a friendly closing. The children will then write their own letters back to Katie, telling her all about their lives and where they live. We will focus on writing in clear, coherent sentences, using correct punctuation to make our letters easy to read and friendly in tone. We will also write on the envelopes to post the letters back to Katie Morag, in Scotland.</p> <p><b>Fiction - A Fear Tale - <i>The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark</i></b>            In our Year 2 narrative writing unit, we will be exploring Fear Tales, inspired by <i>The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark</i>. The children will learn how to innovate and structure their own Fear Tales by creating characters who are afraid of something, just like 'Plop' the owl in the story. We will focus on using adjectives to describe characters and settings, conjunctions to connect ideas, and suffixes to write our very own Fear Tales. The children will be able to read their own stories to the class.</p>	<p><b>Non-Fiction - Newspaper Report - <i>Scraper Smith</i></b>            In our Year 2 non-fiction writing unit on Newspaper Reports, we will learn all about newspapers, their purpose, and how they help us stay informed about the world. We will explore a range of real newspapers, discussing the key features of a newspaper report, such as headlines and the 5 W's (who, what, where, when, why). We will also focus on our local hero, Robert "Scraper" Smith, and learn about his courageous rescues with the Cullercoats Lifeboat Service. To bring this unit to life, we will visit the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade (TVLB) and learn about their important work, as well as see if we can spot a famous picture of Scraper Smith. Using all we've learned, the children will write their own newspaper reports about one of his rescues, practicing the structure and features of a proper news article.</p> <p><b>Free Verse Poetry</b>            In our poetry unit, we will be exploring free verse winter poetry. Students will learn how to express their thoughts and feelings about winter without needing to follow a set rhyme or rhythm. We'll focus on using descriptive language to paint pictures of the season, such as the cold, the snow, or the bare trees. Through reading and discussing winter-themed poems, the children will be inspired to write their own, using sensory details to bring winter to life.</p>
Maths	<p><b>Number - Place Value</b>            In Year 2, our place value unit to 100 helps us to develop a strong understanding of numbers up to 100. Children will practice counting forwards and backwards to 100, both in numerals and words. They will explore how numbers are made up of tens and ones and learn to write numbers in both numeral and word form. Using tools like number lines and place value charts, students will compare, order, and represent numbers, building a solid foundation for future work with larger numbers and mathematical operations.</p> <p><b>Number - Addition and Subtraction</b>            Our addition and subtraction unit within 20 focuses on helping students develop a deeper understanding of these operations through practical resources and visual representations. Children will use objects like counters, dienes, cubes, and number lines to help solve problems and visualize calculations. They will also explore different ways to represent addition and subtraction, including number sentences, part-part-whole models, and bar models, which will help them break down and understand the structure of problems.</p>	<p><b>Number - Addition and Subtraction (Continued)</b>            Our addition and subtraction unit within 20 focuses on helping students develop a deeper understanding of these operations through practical resources and visual representations. Children will use objects like counters, dienes, cubes, and number lines to help solve problems and visualize calculations. They will also explore different ways to represent addition and subtraction, including number sentences, part-part-whole models, and bar models, which will help them break down and understand the structure of problems.</p> <p><b>Shape</b>            In our Year 2 shape unit, we will explore and understand the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. Children will learn to identify and name common shapes such as squares, rectangles, triangles, circles, cubes, spheres, and pyramids. They will investigate key properties, including the number of sides, corners, faces, and edges. Through hands-on activities like sorting, drawing, and constructing shapes, students will deepen their understanding of symmetry and shapes in the environment.</p>

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<p>Science</p>	<p><b>Living Things and their Habitats</b></p> <p>In this unit children will learn about a variety of habitats and the plants and animals that live there. They learn to tell the difference between things that are living, dead and things that have never been alive, and apply this in a range of contexts. They make observations of a local habitat and the creatures that live there, investigating conditions in local microhabitats and how they affect the minibeasts found within them. This unit allows children to research a range of global habitats and how the living things that live there are suited to their environments, and also provides an introduction to the idea of dependency between plant and animal species.</p>	<p><b>Animals including Humans</b></p> <p>In this unit, children learn about how humans and other animals are born, grow and change, and what we need to survive and be healthy. Children classify different kinds of animal babies, learn about the basic needs that are shared by humans and animals, and research the differing needs of animals within our care. Focusing their own experiences, children explore the need for humans to eat a varied diet, to keep themselves clean, and to take regular exercise. Throughout the unit, the learning materials encourage children to make positive choices that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.</p>
<p>Art</p>	<p><b>Collage Skills Focus</b></p> <p>In our Art unit on <i>Collage</i>, Year 2 pupils will explore the work of the artist Eric Carle, famous for his vibrant and textured collage illustrations in books like <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>. Children will learn how to create their own collages using paper, fabric, and other materials, experimenting with colour, texture, and shape, just like Eric Carle did in his artwork. They will gain inspiration from his techniques to design their own collages, developing their creativity and fine motor skills while learning about how Carle's artwork tells a story through collage.</p>	
<p>Computing</p>	<p><b>Keep Safe and Create</b></p> <p>In our Computing unit <i>Keep Safe and Create</i>, Year 2 pupils will learn the importance of being safe, responsible, and respectful online. They will understand how to use technology in a positive way and recognize different feelings they may have when using it. Pupils will also learn how to import images into multimedia resources to share their ideas and engage others. They will understand that staying safe online is just as important as staying safe in real life and know what to do if they ever have a bad feeling when using technology, including how to ask for help.</p>	<p><b>An Introduction to Animation</b></p> <p>In our Computing unit <i>An Introduction to Animation</i>, Year 2 pupils will use a range of tools to create their own animations. They will learn how to make digital drawings and create stop-motion films using objects and figures. This unit links really well with our literacy lessons on storytelling and sequencing, as students will animate the movement of objects to tell a story. They will also build on their drawing skills, which they began developing in <i>An Introduction to Digital Art</i>.</p>
<p>Design and Technology</p>	<p><b>Textiles - Puppets</b></p> <p>In our DT unit <i>Puppets</i>, Year 2 pupils will create their own textile puppet by marking out, cutting, and joining pieces of fabric. They will investigate a selection of hand puppets, looking at how they are made and who they are designed for, before designing their own puppets. This unit links to our literacy work, as children can use their puppets to either make up their own play or retell a familiar story. For example, we'll connect our puppet-making to the <i>Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark</i> writing unit, where pupils can bring the characters to life through their creations.</p>	
<p>French</p>	<p><b>Language Angels - Les saisons (Seasons)</b></p> <p>In this unit, pupils will learn the four seasons in French and explore a key characteristic of each season. Through engaging and interactive activities, they will develop vocabulary and speaking skills to describe the seasons. By the end of the unit, pupils will be able to express their favourite season in French, using simple sentences. This unit builds foundational language skills and cultural awareness through seasonal themes.</p>	<p><b>Language Angels - Dans ma ville (In My Town)</b></p> <p>In this unit pupils will learn the names of seven key places typically found in a town, such as <i>la boulangerie</i> (the bakery) and <i>l'école</i> (the school). For each location, children will be introduced to a simple, key phrase in French to help them describe or interact with that place. To support vocabulary retention and make learning enjoyable, each lesson will include a lively, themed song that pupils will be encouraged to sing and move along to. The unit aims to build early language skills through repetition, music, and fun, helping children gain confidence in speaking and understanding French.</p>

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<p>Geography</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Comparing Life on a Small Island - Countries of the UK Capital Cities and Seas</a></p> <p>In Year 2, our geography topic is called <i>Comparing Life on a Small Island</i>, where the children will learn about the countries of the UK, their capital cities, and surrounding seas, as well as their position in relation to the continents and oceans of the world. This unit will build on the map skills the children developed in Year 1, helping them to use atlases, world maps, and globes to locate different places, including the UK and the fictional island they will compare it to. We will explore the four countries of the UK—England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland and their capitals: London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Belfast. The children will also learn about the seas that surround the UK, such as the North Sea and the English Channel. Using aerial photographs, the children will identify and compare human and physical features, such as landmarks, on both the UK and the fictional island. By looking at the similarities and differences in geography, the children will develop a deeper understanding of how our country fits into the wider world and how it compares to life on a smaller island.</p>	
<p>History</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Significant people - Grace Darling and Scrapper Smith</a></p> <p>In Year 2, our history topic focuses on <i>Significant People</i>, with a special focus on Grace Darling and Scrapper Smith, two important figures in the history of lifeboat rescues. This unit will help the children understand what makes a person significant by exploring the lives and work of these brave lifeboat rescuers. We will learn about Grace Darling, who became famous for her courage in rescuing people from a shipwreck, and Scrapper Smith, known for his long career in lifeboat rescues. Through this, the children will compare their lives and explore how their actions have influenced lifeboat rescues today. The children will discuss the qualities that make Grace Darling and Scrapper Smith important historical figures and reflect on how their bravery continues to inspire lifeboat crews now. This topic will encourage the children to think about the role of courage and helping others in shaping history.</p>	
<p>Music</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Hands, Feet, Heart</a></p> <p>This term in Music, our unit is called Hands, Feet, Heart. All our learning is focused around one song, Hands, Feet, Heart, and we will explore it in lots of fun ways! We'll play games, practise pulse, rhythm, and pitch, and learn to sing and play instruments. We'll also have the chance to improvise and even compose our own music using the song. Alongside this, we will listen to and appraise different styles of South African music, helping us appreciate the diverse sounds and rhythms from around the world.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Charanga - Ho Ho Ho</a></p> <p>This term in Music, our unit is called <i>Ho, Ho, Ho</i>, and we'll be focusing on a fun Christmas song! We'll learn to sing <i>Ho, Ho, Ho</i> and explore the music through games, playing instruments, and understanding different musical elements like rhythm and pitch. We'll also listen to and appraise other styles of music, helping us appreciate how music can sound in different ways.</p>
<p>PE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Gymnastics (North Tyneside Unit of Work 1-6)</a></p> <p>This term in PE, our unit is <i>Gymnastics</i>, where we'll focus on performing a range of actions, combining travelling and stillness with smooth transitions and good control. We'll practise linking movements together and work on developing basic rolls, like pencil rolls and egg rolls. By the end of the unit, we'll create and perform short sequences with a clear beginning, middle, and end, showing off our creativity and growing confidence in gymnastics!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Attack Defend Shoot (Unit 1 PE Hub)</a></p> <p>This term in PE, our unit is called <i>Run, Jump and Throw</i>, where we'll be working on building our strength, balance, agility, and coordination. We'll practise running, jumping, and throwing activities that help us increase our stamina and core strength. We'll also learn how to work collaboratively on more complex tasks, cheering each other on and trying our best to improve together.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Dance (Unit 1 PE Hub)</a></p> <p>This term in PE, our unit is <i>Dance</i>, where we'll explore how to transition smoothly between shapes and balances, making our movements flow beautifully. We'll challenge ourselves to move imaginatively, responding to the music and letting it inspire us. Working as part of a group, we'll create and perform simple dance routines, practising teamwork and having lots of fun expressing ourselves through dance!</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Hit, Catch, Run (Unit 1 PE Hub)</a></p> <p>This term in PE, our unit is called <i>Hit, Catch, Run</i>, where we'll develop our hitting skills using a variety of bats. We'll also practise feeding and bowling skills to help make our games more exciting and fair. As we play, we'll learn how to hit the ball and run to score points, working together and having lots of fun while building our confidence and teamwork!</p>
<p>PSHE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Safety First</a></p> <p>This term in PSHE, our unit is called <i>Safety First</i>. In this unit, we will learn about everyday dangers, both at home and outside, and how we can keep ourselves safe. We'll also explore how to stay safe online and understand the importance of the Internet. We'll talk about the <i>Underwear Rule</i>, which teaches us about appropriate and inappropriate touching and that our private parts are personal. We'll learn about the important people who can help us and how to ask for help when needed, as well as understanding our growing responsibility for keeping ourselves safe.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><a href="#">Growing Up</a></p> <p>This term in PSHE, our unit is called <i>Growing Up</i>. This topic helps us understand how we grow and change, both physically and emotionally. We will learn about our own bodies and others' bodies, as well as explore gender stereotypes and the different types of families people have. Children will also learn how to respect their own and others' bodies, keep their bodies safe, and talk about their feelings in response to different life experiences. It's all about understanding ourselves and others as we grow!</p>

# Year 2 Autumn Overview

RE

## Why is the Bible so special to Christians?

In our RE topic, *Why is the Bible Special to Christians?*, we will learn about the Bible's importance in the Christian faith. The Bible contains God's teachings and stories about Jesus, which guide Christians in their lives. We will explore key stories from the Old and New Testaments, like Creation, Noah's Ark, and the life of Jesus, and discover how Christians use the Bible in worship, prayer, and daily life. Through storytelling and activities, we will understand why the Bible is so special and reflect on what makes something special in our own lives.

## How and why is light important at Christmas?

In Year 2, our RE topic is *How and Why is Light Important at Christmas?*. We will explore the role of light in Christianity, Hinduism, and Judaism by learning about Advent, Christmas, Diwali, and Hanukkah. The children will discover how light symbolises hope, joy, and the triumph of good over evil in each festival, such as Advent candles for Jesus, Diwali's Festival of Lights, and Hanukkah's menorah.

Through activities like making candles and listening to stories, they will understand the significance of light in these celebrations and reflect on its meaning in their own lives.