Year 2	Autumn Term Overview 2026-2027

English Reading:
This term in Year 2 English, we are exploring three fantastic texts: *The Magic Finger* by Roald Dahl, *Dixie O'Day: In the Fast Lane* by Shirley Hughes and Clara Vulliamy, and *The Street Beneath My Feet* by Charlotte Guillain. Alongside building reading comprehension and vocabulary, these stories link closely to our PSHE curriculum, helping children explore themes of empathy, understanding the consequences of our actions, teamwork, and caring for the world around us.

Ways you can support at home:

Talk about feelings and choices: While reading together, ask your child how the characters might be feeling and discuss whether their choices were fair or kind (especially when reading *The Magic Finger*).

Celebrate teamwork and fairness: Use stories like *Dixie O'Day* to chat about playing fair, solving problems together, and being a good friend.

Explore your local environment: Take a walk outside and talk about what might be hidden beneath the pavement—such as pipes, cables, and minibeasts—to spark curiosity about looking after our community and planet.

Daily reading: Keep reading aloud together for 10–15 minutes each day, pausing to predict what might happen next and talking about new words.

English Writing:

This term, our Year 2 writers are exploring four wonderful texts: *Cave Baby*, *Stanley's Stick*, *Iggy Peck, Architect*, and *A Walk in London*. In English, the children will use these stories to inspire creative character descriptions, imaginative narratives, and informative guides about famous landmarks. Alongside our writing, these books link directly to our PSHE learning, helping the children explore themes of creativity, perseverance, celebrating our unique strengths, and appreciating the communities we live in.

Ways you can support at home:

Spark imagination: Encourage your child to turn everyday objects—like a stick, cardboard box, or wooden spoon—into something new and tell you a short story about it.

Build and problem-solve: Work together on a construction challenge using Lego, blocks, or recycling, talking through how to overcome tricky parts without giving up.

Explore your local area: On a walk around your town or village, spot interesting buildings, road signs, or landmarks and discuss what makes your community special.

Practise storytelling aloud: Ask your child to describe their ideas out loud in full sentences before writing them down, focusing on exciting adjectives and clear finger spaces.

Maths

In Year 2 Maths, we are building a strong foundation in Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, and 2-D and 3-D Shapes. Children will learn to count in steps of 2, 3, 5, and 10, understand the value of tens and ones in two-digit numbers up to 100, and use symbols (<, >, =) to compare them. Alongside developing mental and written strategies to add and subtract two-digit numbers, we will explore the properties of shapes—such as counting sides, finding lines of symmetry, and spotting 2-D faces on 3-D objects. These skills naturally connect to our **Design & Technology (DT)** projects, where we measure materials and construct 3-D models, and **Science**, where we sort everyday objects by their materials and properties.

Ways you can support at home:

Count together on the go: Practise counting in 2s, 5s, and 10s when walking up the stairs, pairing socks, or counting coins in a piggy bank. Try starting from different numbers (e.g., counting in 10s from 14: 14, 24, 34...).

Play "Number Detective": Spot two-digit numbers on front doors, buses, or price tags. Ask your child to tell you how many tens and ones are in the number, or ask which number is greater or less.

Kitchen & shopping maths: Involve your child in adding up small prices at the supermarket, weighing ingredients when baking, or working out how much change is needed from £1.

Go on a 3-D shape hunt: Look around the house for everyday 3-D shapes (like cereal box cuboids, tin can cylinders, or football spheres) and ask your child to name the 2-D shapes they can see on their flat faces.

Get crafty with symmetry: Fold a piece of paper in half, paint a pattern on one side, and press it together to explore lines of symmetry, or use building blocks to construct and describe 3-D models.

Science
Animals Including Humans

This term in Science, Year 2 will be learning all about *Animals, Including Humans* and how living things grow and stay healthy.

Your child will explore how animals and humans have offspring that grow into adults, noticing that while some young look like smaller versions of their parents, others—like frogs and butterflies—go through big changes as they grow. We will also discover which animals hatch from eggs and which are born alive. Alongside this, the children will learn about the basic needs for survival and why eating a balanced diet, exercising regularly, and practising good hygiene are so important for keeping our bodies healthy. Throughout the topic, we will link our learning to Maths by measuring and comparing growth, and to PSHE through discussions on personal care and healthy routines.

PSHE

In Year 2 PSHE and Computing, pupils are learning how to build healthy, respectful relationships both offline and online.

Connecting with others: Children will celebrate what makes themselves and others unique, learning how friends, family, and classmates can support one another. They will explore what respectful behaviour looks like in everyday situations and practise simple, calm strategies for resolving disagreements.

The online world: Linking directly to our Computing curriculum, pupils will look at the different ways people use the internet and compare online activities with offline play. They will learn how to treat others kindly online and practise clear safety steps—such as telling a trusted adult straight away—if they ever see something upsetting or unsuitable.

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History - Local Area - Castles and Stately Homes

Kings and queens turned Northumberland's rocky coastal castles into cozy homes because the country became peaceful and they no longer needed them for fighting. In this topic, your Year 2 child is learning how these dramatic cliffside fortresses changed over time while staying in the exact same places. Long ago, thick stone walls and high cliffs helped royalty spot enemies out at sea and stay safe during battles, which links to our Geography work on coastal features. Once wars ended, cold, dark stone rooms were transformed into warm, comfortable homes with big windows, fireplaces, and fancy decorations—a shift children explore in Art by comparing plain castle stone with colorful paintings and grand designs.

Geography - Local Area - Castles and Stately Homes

This term, Year 2 is exploring how the dramatic Northumberland coastline has shaped the way people live over time. Long ago, kings and queens built mighty stone fortresses on top of the coast's jagged **rocks** and steep **cliffs**, using the crashing **sea** as a **natural barrier** to protect themselves from invaders. As the country became more peaceful and weapons changed, thick defensive walls were no longer needed, so these coastal **settlement locations** were transformed into comfortable, beautiful homes with large windows to enjoy the stunning views. Through geography, history, and art, your child will learn to identify these key **coastal landforms**, understand the **physical processes** that shape our shores, and see how a place's geography decides whether it is best used for protection or peaceful living.

RE

In Year 2 Religious Education, children will explore two key Christian beliefs: what God is like and why Christmas matters. First, through the parable of the Lost Son, pupils will learn that Jesus used stories with hidden meanings to show Christians that God is a loving and forgiving Father who always welcomes people back when they say sorry, inspiring believers to forgive others and ask for forgiveness in worship. Second, children will look at the Nativity story from the Bible's Gospels to understand why Jesus' birth is so important to Christians, how it guides their festive actions and generosity, and what Christmas means to both Christians and non-Christians—while reflecting on forgiveness and gratitude in their own lives.

Computing

This term in Computing, Year 2 will explore how digital devices work together as part of a system, learning to identify different pieces of technology and understand how they use **inputs** (like clicking a mouse or tapping a screen) and **outputs** (like sound or images) to interact. Alongside this, the children will become digital storytellers in our Creating Media unit, where they will learn how to frame and capture clear photographs before sequencing 3 to 5 images into a logical digital book or slideshow. Throughout both topics, we will make strong links to **PSHE**, helping children understand how to use technology safely, respectfully, and responsibly, including asking for permission before taking photos of others and knowing how to stay safe online.

Art

Working with colour - Watercolour - Castles

In Art this term, Year 2 are exploring colour theory and watercolour techniques through the exciting theme of castles, linking directly to our History and Geography learning. The children are identifying primary colours (red, yellow, and blue) and experimenting with mixing them to create secondary colours (orange, green, and purple), while developing basic brush control and learning how much water to add to their paint blocks. By laying down simple blocks of colour, they are painting basic, flat geometric castle shapes—using squares for towers, triangles for turrets, and rectangles for drawbridges.

Enrichment Activities:

- Upper Redesdale Show artwork
- Harvest celebrations at church
- Pupil Parliament Elections
- World Mental health Day
- History Workshops
- Fire Safety Assembly
- Antibullying Week
- Christingle at church
- Christmas Play

Design and Technology

Cooking and Nutrition - Christmas Chocolates (Enterprise project - stall at the Christmas fair)

This term in Design and Technology, Year 2 will become young chocolatiers for an exciting Christmas Fair enterprise project. Through this cooking and nutrition unit, the children will discover that chocolate begins as a seed inside a pod on the *Theobroma cacao* tree, while learning why processed chocolate is best enjoyed as an occasional, high-sugar treat. In class, they will compare the colours and flavours of sweet milk chocolate and bitter dark chocolate, before safely melting chocolate with adult help and mixing in ingredients for texture—building great foundations for our Spring Term Science topic on changing materials. Children will use sensory words like *crunchy* and *smooth* to describe their product, and put their Maths skills into action by helping to prepare and sell their creations at our Christmas Fair stall!

Music

In Year 2, children build on their musical foundations through exciting weekly sessions led by Justin Radford, in partnership with Northumberland Music Service. Through hands-on music-making, singing, and active listening, pupils develop their understanding of rhythm, pitch, and melody while exploring a range of untuned and tuned percussion instruments. Creativity is at the heart of our lessons, giving children plenty of opportunities to compose their own simple patterns, perform together as an ensemble, and grow in confidence as young musicians.

PE

Year 2 PE is delivered in partnership with the **Newcastle United Foundation**. Our sessions focus on building core physical skills, agility, and coordination through engaging games and activities. Children also learn the importance of teamwork, communication, and staying healthy and active.

Forest School

In **Year 2 Forest School**, our sessions build upon the children's growing independence, teamwork, and confidence in the outdoors. Safety remains at the heart of everything we do; the children learn how to assess risks around our campfire, follow strict rules when moving near equipment, and understand what to do in an emergency—including alerting an adult and knowing how emergency calls work. With close, one-to-one adult supervision, Year 2 pupils progress to using more complex tools, such as bow saws and flint and steel, while collaborating in teams to engineer sturdy, standalone dens. Alongside these practical skills, the children deepen their connection to nature by observing and explaining seasonal shifts across our site—from spotting autumn fungi to watching spring buds emerge—all while demonstrating genuine care and respect for local wildlife and their habitats.

Links to the world of work:

- Investigating castles introduces roles in heritage, archaeology and architecture
- science and maths develops skills used in healthcare, engineering and research.
- Our chocolate enterprise project gives children experience of product design, budgeting and marketing.
- Creative work in art, music and computing highlights careers in the creative industries.