

Welcome to Year 2 Dolphins

Autumn 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 2 and to Dolphins class! We hope you have all enjoyed the summer break. We are very much looking forward to seeing the children again and beginning an exciting new school year together.

Year 2 is an important year in which the children build on everything they learned in Year 1 while taking greater responsibility for themselves and their learning. At the start of term, we will give everyone time to settle in, reconnect with friends and become familiar with the routines of their new classroom.

Starting the School Day

Children should come into school independently, hang up their belongings and prepare what they need for the day. Please encourage your child to carry their own belongings and remember the things they need, as these small routines help them to become increasingly confident and organised.

If you need to talk with a member of the Year 2 team, you are welcome to speak to us at the classroom door in the morning or at home time, or contact Mrs Fox by email at:

foxs@greatstoneschool.co.uk

Year 2 Expectations

As the children move through Year 2, we will encourage them to be:

Ready

- come into the classroom calmly and organise their belongings independently
- listen carefully, follow instructions and be ready to learn
- take pride in the presentation of their work
- use the strategies they have been taught and persevere when learning feels difficult.

Respectful

- speak and behave kindly, honestly and respectfully
- work cooperatively and make a positive contribution to Dolphins class
- look after their own belongings, other people's belongings and our classroom.

Safe

- make sensible choices and take responsibility for their actions
- follow school routines and expectations
- move around the school calmly and safely.

Every child develops in their own way. We will offer the encouragement, challenge and support each child needs to grow in confidence and enjoy success.

PE

Our usual PE days will be **Tuesday** and **Friday**. On these days, children should come to school wearing their school PE kit. Please ensure that long hair is tied back and that earrings are removed before school.

Our Autumn Learning

Our learning this term is brought together by the theme 'Roots and where do we belong?' Through this, the children will think about identity, community and the people whose actions have made a difference.



English and Reading. We will begin by revisiting handwriting and developing clear, accurate sentences through 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig'. The children will then explore biography writing through 'Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World'. They will build vocabulary, rehearse ideas aloud and learn to organise information about significant people. We will also begin ELS Spelling, which builds directly on the ELS phonics the children were taught in Year 1. In Reading, we will continue to develop accuracy, fluency and comprehension through individual reading, Readerful texts and our class text 'It's Me, the Bee!' For home reading, some children will bring home a reading book, while children who are still developing their decoding skills will receive an eBook carefully matched to their phonics learning.

Maths. Following the White Rose Maths scheme, we will first revisit number recognition and formation before developing a secure understanding of place value. We will then move on to addition and subtraction. Practical resources, images and mathematical language will help children explain their thinking, choose suitable strategies and apply their skills to problems.

Science. Our topic is Uses of Everyday Materials. The children will investigate why different materials are chosen for different purposes and compare properties such as strength, flexibility, rigidity, absorbency and waterproofing.

History. In Movers and Shakers, we will explore what makes a person significant. The children will learn how important individuals have helped others and how inventors, scientists, explorers and leaders have influenced the world. They will also consider how historians decide whose lives and achievements should be remembered.

Art and Design Technology. The children will revisit colour mixing and explore tints, shades, tones, and warm and cool colours. They will take inspiration from Henri Matisse, Vincent van Gogh and the colours found in nature. In Design Technology, they will investigate food sources and healthy, varied school meals, learn why food is cooked, follow recipes and develop safe, hygienic working habits.

Wider Curriculum. In Computing, the children recognise uses of information technology in school and the wider world, while learning how to use it safely and responsibly. In RE, we will focus particularly on Jewish beliefs and celebrations while making links with other faiths and sacred books. PSHE will centre on fairness, choices, consequences, teamwork, democracy and belonging. Music will include class songs, Tony Chestnut and Carnival of the Animals. In PE, the children will develop rolling, throwing, catching, bouncing, kicking and dribbling skills before applying them in simple games and challenges.

We want every child to feel happy, safe, valued and proud of their progress. Your encouragement at home makes such an important difference, particularly through regular reading, talking about learning and helping your child to become responsible for their belongings and routines.

We are really looking forward to getting to know the children even better, celebrating their achievements and working in partnership with you throughout the year.

Thank you for all your support.

Mrs Fox and Mrs Addison