

Year 2 Newsletter

Summer Term 1 2025



Wow! It is Summer Term already! How did that happen so quickly? We ended Spring 2 with our wonderful singing in the 'Sing Off'. The children were so confident and impressive in their performance skills – we have some budding super stars in Year 2. 'Britain's Got Talent' – watch out! Well-done to Rosen Class who were the KS1 winners with their rendition of Defying Gravity.

We would like to say huge well done to our fabulous Year 2 learners! They have returned full of enthusiasm and are working very hard. We are hugely proud of our children and know that they will continue to shine!

Thank you so much for all your support at home, it makes such a huge difference to the progress and achievements of the children. We really do feel as if you are part of our team! Please talk to your child's class teacher if you would like to know extra ways to support your child in aspects of their learning. We cannot believe how quickly our year is zooming by and we still have so much learning to do!



What are we going to be learning about this half-term?

In **English** this term we will be reading the 'The Twits' and other stories, such as extracts from 'The BFG', by the famous author Roald Dahl. We will be using a variety of writing genres including retelling, recounts, descriptions and instructions! We will be continuing to use our writing lenses to help us write. In our daily **Master Reader** sessions, we will be using the Twits to support the development of fluency, reading with pace and expression and building our word knowledge to support comprehension. We will be continuing to have daily spelling lessons using Little Wandle, Letters and Sounds revised. These are very popular lessons, and your children are so knowledgeable about spelling rules!



In **Design Technology**, following on from the success of the incredible photograph frames of Spring Term, we will be designing and making a dream catcher for the BFG. We will be researching, planning and making. We will be using skills such as winding, threading, cutting and knotting. At the end of the unit, we will evaluate our dreamcatcher.



Our **Science** work will focus on life processes, this will include understanding alive, dead and never alive. We will be learning about the characteristics of living things.

In **History**, we will be learning about significant people. We will learn about the life of Roald Dahl and compare his childhood to our own. We will find out about his family and his many achievements.

In **RE**, we will continue to learn about the Christian and Jewish faiths and will compare them. We will learn about synagogues and what they look like inside. We will learn about features of the inside of the synagogue and how it is used as well as learning about customs, beliefs, and religious behaviours.

In **computing** we will be using 'Purple Mash' to develop questioning and in **music** will continue to explore pitch and rhythm with Mrs Horwood each week.

In **PSHE**, we will be learning about relationships, and this will involve thinking about families and friendships with themes such as diversity, trust, appreciation, managing conflicts and promoting positive connections.

Year 2 Assessments

Many parents have asked about the Year 2 SATs.

Government guidelines now state that the annual Year 2 SATs are optional for schools to undertake as part of their assessment programmes.

We will use the optional SATs, alongside our own teacher tracking and school assessments, to help us identify how well each child is doing in their independent Reading, Writing (including spelling) and Maths.

The assessments will support the details of the end of year reports to parents. They will also be used in transition to Year 3, in identifying strengths and areas for future development. They will take place in Summer 2.



Phonics Screening

Year 2 children who needed more development with their phonics and who did not pass the Year 1 Phonics Screening will be assessed again this year. Children new to the country who did not do the screening in Year 1, or children who were absent for this in Year 1 will also have this assessment.

The Phonics screening will happen in June. .



You can help your child in the following ways:

1. **Read** with your child for a few minutes every day and ask a range of **questions**. Please record your comments in the small red book.

If your child has a phonics book – this is their reading book to read to you. Support can be found: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

The colour banded book is a book for you to read together and will offer the opportunity to access wider vocabulary that might not be decodable using phonics and will support language acquisition/ learning new words.

If your child is now reading non-phonetic books:

Children who have now achieved success in decodable books, are now solely on colour banded books. These are now their targeted reading book.

Please remember that although the children are becoming fluent readers, we need to continue to read with them daily and check that they are fully understanding the texts. Thank you so much for your support!



2. Make sure that your child can read and **spell** the common exception words (Year1 and 2). These came home after our last check, and we have been looking at them each week to embed the words into our long-term memories ready for Year 3.

We will be testing these again before May half term.

We include these words in our daily phonics/spelling lessons and learn them in groups, for example old, cold, gold – we teach why they are tricky, and it is so helpful for you to go over them again at home.

We will continue to inform you of the Little Wandle sounds and words that we have learned each week so that you can practise these with your children. You will find them on Google Classroom.



3. **Mymaths** homework is updated each Friday – please check all work has been completed and if there are low scores, the children can do the activities as many times as needed. This will build upon work done in class. Please check that your child has done all activities set so far.
4. Make sure that your child is in school as much as possible!

Please see the '**Handy hints to help your child**' on our Year 2 webpage : <https://www.prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk/site/data/files/users/year-2-documents/669B6508499CBF1CB1D6F2A130878503.pdf>



Warm Weather

As the weather is likely to warm up (we hope) could we please ask that your child continues to bring a named water bottle to school each day.

In addition, on very warm days, could you please apply sunscreen to your child **before school** and it is advisable for them to bring a hat for extra protection.



PE and Games lessons will occur outside this half term. Please make sure that your child wears PE kit on their PE days.
Please see the Priory Rise school uniform policy on the school website if you are unsure of what this should look like.

Children attending **after school clubs** on days which are non-PE days will need wear normal uniform during the day and bring their PE kit to school to get changed at the end of the school day.

Active Risers – if the children go to this club on a day that is not their PE day, they will need to bring their normal school uniform (and school shoes) to change into after the club, ready for their school day.

Jewellery: Earrings need to be removed during PE or covered with Surgical tape such as micropore for safety. Watches also need to be removed.

In our PSHE and assembly times throughout April, we will be thinking about the importance having **pride in yourself** and all you do. We will listen to, and reflect on, stories modelling how being proud can benefit us.

In May, we will be think about the value of **individuality**.



Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday (school closed)

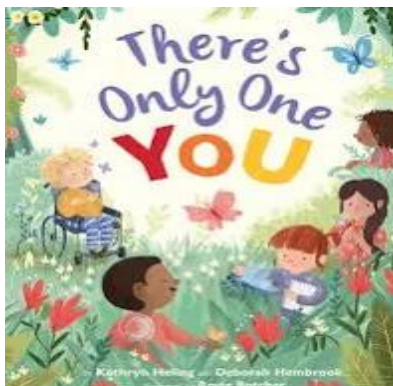
Thursday 24th May – Class photos

Friday 25th May – Break up for half-term

Future Dates!

Thursday 5th June- Year 2 trip to Waddesdon Manor

Want to read a good book? How about these?...



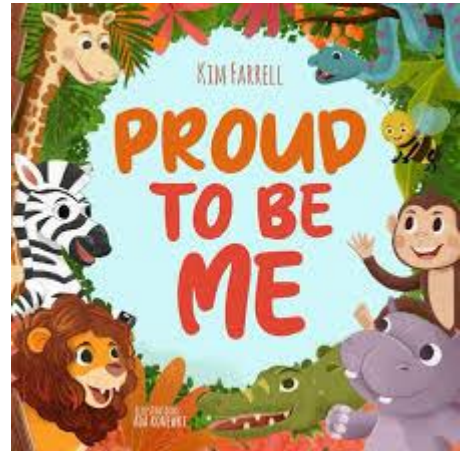
This is a beautiful book that reassures children that, whoever and whatever they are, it's

awesome being YOU! It is expertly written to include all kinds of children and families, this story embraces the beauty in a range of physical types, personalities, and abilities.

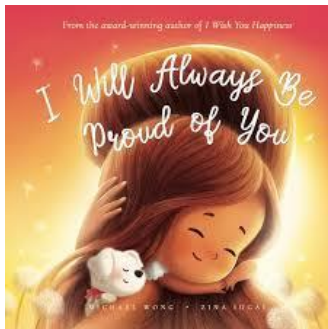
This book is a great link to both of our values – pride in yourself and individuality.



Have you ever compared yourself to someone else and felt sad? Do you ever worry you are not good enough? *PROUD TO BE ME* is an award-winning picture book about the importance of confidence, self-esteem and embracing differences in ourselves and others. Through vibrant illustrations, fun text patterns, and engaging rhyme, children follow each character's journey of self-discovery.

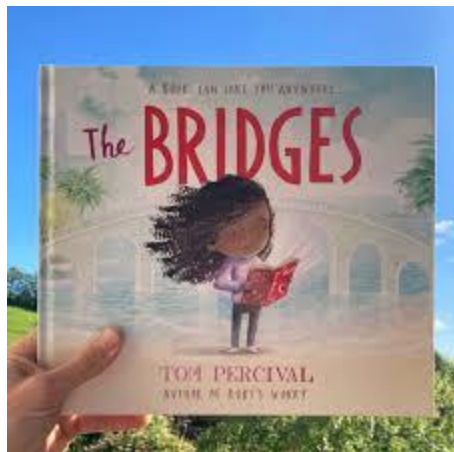


Just like the rest of us, children sometimes feel pressured to “fit in”. When it comes to their bodies and appearances, this can cause feelings of anxiety and inadequacy, and it can take practice to reframe these negative thoughts into positive self-talk. That’s where *PROUD TO BE ME* comes in!



The timeless and beautiful story empowers children to be the best they can be. It explores the many wonderful possibilities in life and reassures children that they will be loved unconditionally whatever they choose to be.

The inspirational story is beautifully illustrated with diverse and inclusive characters.



This is such a beautiful book with a lovely message.

Mia feels alone; so alone that it's as if she lives on a small island, far out to sea. But then one day, Mia is given a book - the first she has ever been able to call her own. As Mia reads the book, bridges appear, and her island fills with colour and life. And the more Mia reads, the stronger the bridges become, opening up a world of connection and hope...

Because a book can take you anywhere
A firm favourite!

Thank you so much for all of your support, we are delighted to be working with you to ensure your child shines as brightly as they can!

Please do get in touch with us if you need support in any way.

You can contact us at year2@pr5d.com

(we do not access this email when we are teaching 8.30am – 3.10pm. Please contact the Office if you have an urgent message) or you can talk to us at the end of the school day, once all children have been safely dismissed.