Planes, Trains and Automobiles

Year 2 Autumn Term 2026

Our topic during the Autumn term is all about transport – how it has changed over the years and how we use it now.

As **Historians,** we will find out about some of the amazing inventors who have shaped our world. We'll investigate the history of flight with the Montgolfier brother's hot air balloon and the Wright brother's invention of the plane. We'll investigate the history of train travel and the influences George Stephenson and Isambard Kingdom Brunel had on life at that time. Looking at significant people and events in our own locality we will learn of the development of Morris Motors in Oxford. To complete this topic we will look at more recent developments in transport focusing on space travel, including the life of Neil Armstrong and space exploration since the first lunar landing with a focus on the 2015 Tim Peake expedition.
As **Musicians** we will be going on musical journeys, learning to play tuned and untuned instruments and to record our music making with simple graphic scores.

English

Non-fiction:
Postcards and Letters / Information texts / Instructions
Fiction:
Traditional Tales / Stories in familiar settings / Imaginary Texts
Poetry:
Songs and repetitive poems / Traditional poems for young children / Poems about family

Grammar is taught within our English lessons.
Alphabetical order / Sentences - questions, exclamations, statements, commands / Commas in a list

Reading / Phonics
Continue to apply phonic knowledge and skills to build up fluency and confidence in reading.

Handwriting
Form letters of the correct size relative to one another and use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

Maths

In maths lessons we will be focusing on the following areas:
- Number and Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication and Division

Geometry
shape / measurement / position and direction

We revisit these areas many times over the course of the year.

PE

PE including outdoor learning will be on Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning.

Science

Seasonal Changes – throughout the year
- We will secure our understanding of the seasonal changes and which months are part of which season.

Living Things and Their Habitats – Scientist – Jane Goodall
- explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead and things that have never been alive
- identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats
- describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.

Key skills:
Ask simple questions. Identify, group and classify. Use observations to suggest answers. Gather and record data.

Computing

We will learn how Information Technology improves our world.

D&T / Maths

We will use our maths skills to weigh ingredients and bake bread and individual Christmas Cakes.

PSHE (SCARF)

Our values for this Autumn term are FRIENDSHIP and THANKFULNESS. Using the **SCARF** unit **Me and My Relationships** we will be agreeing rules for our Wenrisc classroom so that we all work together in a happy and respectful environment.
In Term 2 we will focus on **Valuing Difference**.

Art: We will learn printing and textiles by using natural materials to print on fabric. We learn about Andy Goldsworthy, an artist who creates works of art in nature, using only natural materials such as: flowers, leaves, twigs, pebbles, bark, grass and pine cones.

RE: What are the best reasons for following a leader? We'll learn about key leaders for people of the Jewish faith.
What do many Christians do when they meet and why? By exploring key features of Christian worship, we will make links between actions, beliefs and teachings.