



Ms Nicola  
Foote



Ms Miriam  
Mahapatra



### Introduction

A warm welcome to our new and returning families. In the first few weeks your children have settled into new routines and made new friends. The learners have become more familiar with navigating their way around the school, getting to and from specialist classes and independently making their way to the library at lunch time. In class we have been looking at how we can apply the Nexus **Core Values** to the way we work and play in school.

Class parents play an important role in ensuring that updates from the school and home room are communicated to parents and they help to coordinate parent volunteers. A warm welcome to our Year 2 class parents for this year.

**Year 2G:** Mrs. Shin and Mrs. Prestwich

**Year 2B:** Mrs Havercroft

2B is still looking for one other parent to assist Mrs Havercroft as class representative. If you are interested, please let us know.

### Unit of Inquiry

The central idea of our first unit of inquiry this semester is 'Schools are organised so we can work together'. The learners of Year 1 and Year 2 were given a problem of moving a pile of very heavy blocks from the Year 2G classroom to the playground, without any external assistance. After discussing this as a group, they came up with a solution that used their teamwork and organisational skills to solve the problem. The teachers were impressed with how the learners worked together on their solution. The learners are continuing their inquiry looking at the roles different people play in the school.



## Mathematics

We have been looking at the importance of number in everyday life. The learners went on a number walk with digital cameras and recorded the numbers that they observed. We have been playing number games in class and working on our understanding of how a number line works. We have introduced 'Mathletics' in our classrooms and the learners can also access this from home.



## Literacy

We have started the academic year by looking at ways of getting to know each other in our new environment. We worked together to explore different types of questions to help us get to know each other and used these in a question and answer session. We have also created a mind map about ourselves and then used this to help us write about our own lives.

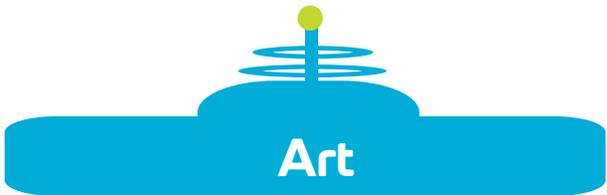
This week we started working in our phonics groups. We are learning about the different phonetic sounds whilst playing interactive games, singing songs and performing actions, all to support the development of our reading and writing.



## Health and Physical Education

Year 2 have been learning water confidence activities such as floating and underwater swimming through fun aquatic games. Pool safety and familiarisation has been introduced. Learners have explored the water depth from 1.1M to 2.0M deep and the learners have started to do work on their long distance swim of 25 metres.

In land-based HPE we have been learning class routines that are important for our health and well-being in a practical setting. Through games, learners have been introduced to different aspects of social responsibility and the different ways in which they can contribute to a group.



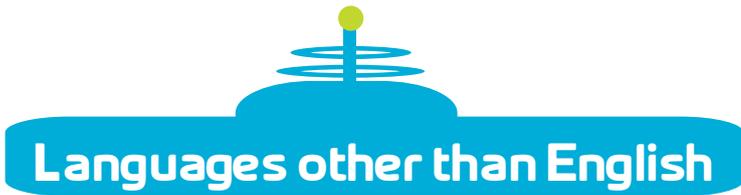
## Art

Year 2 learners have identified lines, shapes and colours in artwork created by Secondary School learners. They have used their imagination to transform a line made by an ice cream stick into slides, buildings, flowers, cars and helicopters. They have experimented with colour using oil pastels as well as paints. They have begun to work on a portrait using lines, shape and colour using the papier mâché technique and a variety of other materials. Please send in an apron or an old t-shirt to prevent pastel and paint on uniforms.



## Music

The Year 2 learners have been exploring how sounds are made on different percussion instruments. They have been doing music and movement exercises, and have begun to sing a number of songs.



## Languages other than English

**Chinese** - Most of the Year 2 learners have prior experience of learning Chinese. We have reviewed greetings and days of the week by using visual cues and through speaking and listening activities. The basic written strokes and four tones have been introduced. Learners are gradually identifying the difference between each tone.

They also have been working on identifying numbers and writing them using the correct strokes. Here is the number song we have been listening to:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXXV-E1CB-E>

**French** - Due to a large number of newcomers, we have carried out a thorough review of greetings and the basic vocabulary linked with colours, numbers, family members and days of the week. We did this through silly mimes as well as written and spoken activities. We also started watching *Monster in Paris*, a French cartoon about not judging people by their appearance.

## Reminders

The Year 1 and 2 Learners' Assembly will take place on Friday, 20 September

**Hats:** Please send in a hat for your child, if you have not already done so, as it is a school requirement for outdoor play.

**Library:** Year 2s visit the library on Mondays. Learners are to return their library books on these days and exchange them for new books.

Please make sure all clothes, water bottles and snack and lunch containers are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.



