

Year 2 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

How was school different in the past?



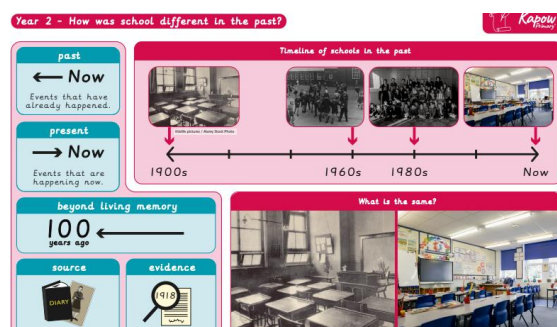
Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome Back! We hope you are all as excited as we are to be back and to return to a normal school routine. We hope you find the following information useful in supporting your child's learning at home. Our topic this term is "How Was School Different in the Past?" Through this topic, the children will have lots of opportunities to explore and compare what school was like in the past with what it is like today.

In Year 2, your children will be supported by Miss Javed and Mrs Ali. We are dedicated to ensuring that every child feels safe, valued and inspired to learn. If you ever have any questions or would like to talk to us, please feel welcome to approach either of us at any time. We look forward to working together and making this a happy, successful and enjoyable term for all our children. Thank you for your continued support!

Historians

As historians, the children will focus on looking at schools. They will identify features of a classroom now and a classroom 100 years ago, identifying some similarities and differences. They will also look at recognising two similarities and two differences between schools now and schools in the past.



Community value

This half term, our school value is Kindness. We will be encouraging

compassion and empathy in all our relationships — helping children understand the importance of caring for others, noticing how people feel, and treating everyone with warmth and respect.

Scientists

As Scientists the children will notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults. They will find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air). The children will describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene.



PSHE

This half term in PSHE, we are learning all about looking after our bodies. We will discover how our everyday choices keep us healthy and well, and learn how movement, sleep, food, and drink help our bodies grow strong.



Mathematicians

As part of our maths curriculum, this half term the children will be focussing on reading and writing numbers to at least 100 in numerals and in words. They will

Year 2 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

How was school different in the past?



count in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in tens from any number, forward and backward. They will recognise the place value digit of and 2 or 3 digit number.

Health and Fitness

During this topic we will be focussing on skills relating to hockey. The children will work to master movements relevant to Hockey. Participate in team games, developing simple tactics for attacking and defending. They will master spatial awareness, stick handling and the rules of the game to develop our hockey knowledge.

Our other topic that we are going to be focussing on is Tag Rugby. Children will work on basic movements including running, jumping, throwing and catching and begin to apply these in a range of activities. They will develop balance, agility and coordination, and begin to apply these in a range of activities. Finally, they will participate in team games, developing simple tactics for attacking and defending.

English

During this half term the children will work on continuing to apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words until automatic decoding has become embedded and reading is fluent. They will read aloud books closely matched to their improving phonic knowledge, sounding out unfamiliar words accurately.

In their writing we will be learning new ways of spelling phonemes for which one or more spellings are already known, and learn some words with each spelling, including a few common homophones. They will continue to practice using spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters.

Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition – The Mysterious Bag

This half term, pupils will be taking part in our exciting Star Writer Competition, inspired by *The Mysterious Bag*. Children will explore a range of intriguing objects found inside a mysterious bag left outside our school playground and use their detective skills to piece together the clues and solve the mystery of how the bag has ended up at our school. They will plan and create their own piece of writing, choosing a genre that best suits their ideas. This competition aims to inspire creativity, imagination and curiosity, while encouraging pupils to develop their writing skills and produce high-quality work. We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful ideas our talented young writers come up with and celebrating their achievements at the end of the term.



Spiritual Thinkers

As a school we understand the importance of children needing to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and worldviews which not only shape their history and culture, but which guide their own development. Our first theme this year is discussing '**How are symbols used to welcome new life?**'. The children will study initiation rites from Christianity, Islam and Sikhism including infant baptism, the naam karan and the aqiqah. They will be made aware that there are other rituals and ceremonies as well, including non-religious ceremonies. They will discover the symbolic food, objects and practices that can be used when welcoming new babies into communities.

Year 2 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

How was school different in the past?



The children will be given the opportunity to reflect on the concepts of wishes and promises. They will compare and contrast different approaches to welcoming new life.

Computing

Learners will develop their understanding of what information technology (IT) is. They will identify devices that are computers and consider how IT can help them both at school and beyond. They will discuss where they have seen IT in school and beyond, in settings such as shops, hospitals, and libraries. Learners will then investigate how IT improves our world, and they will learn about the importance of using IT responsibly.

Online Safety

We will be focussing on using our technology and using it to support our learning. As a class we will discuss the importance of being safe online and the importance of keeping passwords secret. We are looking forward to developing lots of computing skills.

Musicians

In the first term of Year 2 music, children will explore the ukulele by learning basic playing techniques, simple rhythm patterns, and how to create their own musical ideas using the instrument



sArtists and Design Technologists

In our topic Sculpture and 3D the children will be able to flatten and smooth their clay, rolling shapes successfully and making a range of marks in their clay. They will create a basic pinch pot and join at least one clay shape onto the side using the scoring and slipping technique. Towards the end of the topic, they will draw a house design and plan how to create the key features in clay. They will then create a clay house tile that has recognisable features made by both impressing objects into the surface and by joining simple shapes.

My Happy Mind



Meet your brain

During this module, children will learn all about how their brain works and how it affects their thoughts and emotions.

Key learning points include:

- Brain Anatomy: Understanding the basic parts of the brain and what they do.
- Neuroplasticity: Learning that the brain can grow and change through new experiences.
- Emotional Regulation: Discovering how to manage emotions and handle stress.

Mental Health and Well Being

Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions, and our moods. Looking after our mental health is important.

Year 2 Autumn 1 Newsletter 2026

How was school different in the past?



Here are some tips for talking to your child about their Mental Health:

1. Make conversations about mental health a normal part of life
2. Ask open questions: Such as **"How did your day go today?"**
3. Offer empathy rather than solutions
5. Remember we are all different
6. Look for clues about feelings
7. One way to start a conversation about feelings might be: **"How are you feeling at the moment?"**

Safeguarding – Speak Out Stay Safe – Tell, Tell, Tell

At Bankfoot, we actively encourage all children to "tell, tell, tell." We want every child to feel confident in speaking out to stay safe. In Year 2, pupils are taught the importance of sharing their worries with a trusted adult and are regularly reminded of this message. We also provide a worry box in the classroom, offering children a discreet way to express any concerns they may have.

British Values

We will continue to integrate Fundamental British Values throughout our topic and in each session we participate in. Democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.

We will revisit our school rules as we start the new term. These will be our class and whole school rules. As we use our creative skills to create sculpture and shape, the children will be reminded about individual liberty and mutual respect when

observing and commenting on each other's models.

Year 2 Mission Statement:



YEAR 2 MISSION STATEMENT

We are kind and include everyone

We make sure everyone feels welcome, valued and included

We listen well and treat others with respect

We listen carefully, use kind words and show respect to everyone

We try our best and help each other

We never give up and support our friends when they need help

We come to school ready to learn and keep a happy attitude

We are excited to learn, try new things and make every day a positive one!



Key dates

Teachers' Training Day: Friday 2nd October

Break up for half term: Friday 23rd October

Return back to school: Monday 2nd November

Finally

PE will take place on Monday and Wednesday each week. Our weekly spelling test will take place on a Wednesday.

Homework will be given out each Friday and this needs to be returned the following Monday morning. Homework will consist of a range of tasks using paper and chromebooks.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate in asking a member of the year 2 team.

