



Curriculum Information

Grade 2

ENGLISH

Are you keen to keep up with what your child is learning in English lessons? You can, with this guide to classes in Grade 2.

Literacy is a daily lesson, made up of three aspects:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and listening

Across these areas, the children will be working with a range of material, including stories, non-fiction and poetry. They will be looking at stories with familiar settings, traditional tales, and different stories by the same author.

Reading in Grade 2 – your child will be:

- Reading around 150 high frequency words automatically
- Blending sounds to work out new words
- Reading longer and less familiar texts
- Reading whole books on their own
- Explaining stories and identifying characters
- Recognising prefixes and suffixes

Most children are becoming more confident readers by Year 2. They will probably still be working through the school reading scheme, and will be reading with the teacher and in small groups (guided reading).

Try this at home:

- *Read books together, taking turns and talking about the parts you liked*
- *Encourage your child to look at non-fiction books, for example encyclopaedias, dictionaries or an atlas.*
- *If your child develops a liking for a certain author, find as many of their books as possible*
- *If you have a blackboard, write simple messages for your child to read*

Writing in Grade 2 – your child will be:

- Writing clearly, using the correct capital and lower case letters
- Using the correct spacing between words
- Beginning to join some letters
- Using question marks and commas
- Becoming more confident with spelling, both familiar and new words
- Using the past tense with regular verbs
- Using time connectives

During Grade 2 the children are encouraged to think about and plan their writing, so they are able to move on from the simple stories they wrote in Grade 1. By the end of Grade 2 their stories will include some description and dialogue.

Try this at home:

- *Make writing part of a game: play shops, schools or cafes and make writing fun*
- *Buy your child their own notebook to write stories or make a fact file about their favourite animal or football team*
- *Start a scrapbook and encourage your child to have a go at captions and labels*

Speaking and listening in Grade 2 – your child will be:

- Reading aloud clearly and with expression
- Using a wide vocabulary
- Listening to other children and adults, and remembering the main ideas
- Following instructions

During the year they will have the chance to tell stories and put on short performances, designed to help them speak in front of an audience, and develop their intonation. They may also have the chance to see other groups perform. They will be thinking about how they work as groups, learning to take turns as they listen and talk to each other.

Try this at home:

- *Ask your child to talk about the best thing that happened during the day*
- *Put on a puppet show – it needn't be anything fancy, sock or finger puppets would do the job – and play different characters*
- *Encourage your child to describe their drawings and make up a story to match*

MATHS

Your guide to what's covered in the maths curriculum in Grade 2, from partitioning to pictograms.

As in grade 1, there's still a lot of practical and visual learning in maths, using real-life situations children can relate to. The children are learning to think about the methods they use to solve problems, and to check if they are correct. They will start to work with logic problems, and will be recording their results using lists and tables. They will also start to work on solving maths problems mentally.

You may find the children revisiting topics they covered in SK or Grade 1. This is revision in preparation for KS1 SATs, but also to ensure that children have really understood the basics before they move into Key Stage 2. The maths your child is learning now can be easily reinforced at home.

Grade 2 maths – your child will be:

Counting and calculating

- Counting up to 100
- Putting the numbers one to 100 in the correct order
- Recognising sequences and patterns
- Adding and subtracting one- and two-digit numbers
- Doing simple [mental maths](#)
- Learning doubles and halves of numbers to ten
- Starting to use simple division and multiplication
- Adding and subtracting using money

Number facts

- Reading and writing two- and three-digit numbers
- [Partitioning](#) numbers into tens and ones
- Recognising the symbols $<$ and $>$
- Identifying odd and even numbers
- Finding pairs of numbers that add up to ten and then 20 (number bonds)
- Learning the two, five and ten [times tables](#)

Shape

- Sorting and making shapes
- Describing shapes
- Finding lines of symmetry
- Identifying edges, faces and vertices
- Finding half, quarter and three quarters
- Beginning to understand angles
- Describing position and movement using mathematical language

Handling data and measuring

- Sorting information on a diagram
- Drawing block graphs and pictograms

- Measuring and weighing objects
- Reading and understanding scales
- Understanding analogue and digital clocks
- Telling the time to the quarter hour
- Putting events in the correct order

Try this at home

- Play cards - take out the Kings, Queens and Jacks and then try to turn over two cards that add up to ten. You can play a similar game with dominoes, counting the spots
- Point out odd and even numbers on houses when you go out
- Get your child to add up the numbers on car number plates or buses
- Build a tower - blocks are perfect for talking about size and shape
- When you're cutting a cake or pizza, talk about halves and quarters
- Encourage your child to spot the different shapes you can see on the way to school

SCIENCE

Your child will be learning about everything from animals to electricity in Year 2 science. Read on for the full overview of what they'll be taught in school.

During Year 2 more work will be done to develop the core scientific skills of observation and investigation. The children will work on a different topic each term, designed to encourage them to ask questions about the world around them, and they will be taught the importance of gathering evidence and carrying out experiments. They will start to think about the importance of planning before they start a task: how they will find the answers, what questions they will need to ask, and what the result might be. They will also be thinking of the best ways to present their results; for example, they could be using drawings, charts, diagrams, ICT, or standing up and speaking to the class.

Science in Grade 2 – what your child will learn:

There are a range of topics for science in KS1, divided into three main groups, and your child will probably study one or more of these. You may find your child returning to a topic they have covered before, but this time in greater detail.

Life processes and living things

- Differences between things which are alive and those which have never lived
- How living things (animals and humans) move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
- External parts of the body for humans and animals
- Importance of exercise and healthy eating
- How to treat animals with care
- Plants: how they grow from seeds using water and light
- Naming and recognising the leaf, flower, stem and root
- Living things in their environment: what sort of plants and animals live locally; care for the environment

Materials and their properties

- Recognising and naming common types of material (for example, wood, plastic, metal, paper)
- Sorting materials into groups according to various qualities
- Using their senses to explore materials and look at differences and similarities
- Thinking about how different materials are used for different purposes
- How some materials can change, for example, if they are bent, stretched, heated or cooled

Physical processes

- Electricity: everyday appliances; simple circuits using batteries, wires and bulbs; how a switch can break a circuit
- Forces and motion: speed and direction; pushing and pulling
- Light: sources of light, including the sun; how dark is a lack of light

- Sound: making and detecting sound; how sound can get fainter; how we hear sound when it enters the ear

Try this at home

- *Play games with your senses: use a blindfold and try to identify objects just by touch, sound, smell and taste*
- *Plant some seeds: sunflowers are fast growing and the results can be spectacular*
- *Get out some baby photographs and see if you can child can tell who they are*
- *Start a collection: it could be anything – stones, shells, plastic dinosaurs – and sort it by size, colour, shape*
- *Make ice lollies and talk about what happens to water when it goes in the freezer*