Location, location, location

The Big Idea…

'Home is not a place, but a feeling'

Homes come in all shapes and sizes but maybe it's not the physical building that makes that house a home. We will be exploring how the hustle and bustle of a busy city can be a vibrant place to live and how the countryside may be the tranquil, safe haven that people prefer. We will travel around the United Kingdom discovering what makes the UK special to us before travelling around the world to learn about Japan. A place that may be different to our country, but where 125 million

As mathematicians we will continue to develop our addition and subtraction skills, building on the mental and written arithmetic strategies we know to solve different problems with 2-digit numbers. We will draw tens and units to help with the calculation process as well as working with number lines and physical objects to count. We will work with money, learning to recognise coins and notes and combine coins to make different and equal amounts, as well as using our addition and subtraction skills to work out how to find totals and give change. We will practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to help us

As language experts we will

begin the term by looking at the story 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. We will explore new vocabulary and focus on using expanded noun phrases to create character descriptions. We will look at past tense verbs the story structure to write a retell narrative. Next, we will study the story Cherry Blossom and Paper Planes *by Jef Aerts and Sanna Te Loo* and imagine what it would be like for our closest friend to move away. We will be exploring the art of letter writing and write letters to them and maybe even try our hand at some origami to go with our writing. Sentence work will be at the heart of our English lessons this half term. We will perfect the terminology to go with nouns, adjectives and verbs and will ensure our sentences begin with a capital letter and full stop, a skill that can still sometimes be forgotten when completing extended pieces of writing. We will use our knowledge of Japan to write travel brochures encouraging others to travel this magnificent country. Our writing style will move from narrative to non-fiction, whist still using the art of description to persuade. As we focus on Japan, we will we also study the serene art of Haiku poetry.

As geographers we will

explore our place in the world by looking at atlases, maps and globes. We will learn the names of continents and oceans, as well as about the countries of the United Kingdom and what makes them special. We will travel to Japan and learn about its geography and culture, using our geography skills to discuss the human and physical features and how they compare to those closer to home in Keyworth and Nottingham.

As historians we will

extend our travels around the world by travelling back in time and discovering how people have got around places in different periods in history. From Roman chariots to the modern-day Japanese bullet trains, we will discuss how the materials, power and speed of transport

As scientists we will

be learning about what it means to be alive and what an animal, or human needs to survive. We will be thinking about the difference between needs and wants and how it is possible to survive without some of the luxuries we have become accustomed to. We will look at the life cycles of animals and humans and discuss how we have grown and changed since being very tiny babies. It is amazing how much we have learnt already. We will begin to look at healthy eating and exercise and how these help us to live happy and

Across the curriculum

As athletes we will be working on our movement and coordination as part of our gymnastic unit. We will be travelling on low level equipment and perfecting our floor level work before trying out our skills up high.

As musicians we will be joining together as a school to enjoy different genres of music. We will develop confidence to sing and perform learning the words to our favourite school songs.

As expressive artists we will be exploring the 36 views of Mount Fiji and deciding which one we like the most. We will learn about the artist Monet and his style. We will learn all about print techniques when creating cityscapes and explore the use of colour when painting Japanese Cherry Blossom.

As computer specialists we will be learning how to login to the laptops and using Word to combine text and image. We will look at the different parts of a computer, such as the keyboard, screen and mouse.

Knowledge of the World

We will explore the life and culture of people living in Japan, comparing, and contrasting it to our own lives as well as looking at land use and buildings.

Citizenship, the 5 C's and British Values

Empathising with other living things is an important step in learning to care and understand. We will look at the rules we follow at home, school and in the wider community to help care and look after each other.

Ambition and possibilities

Remove the boundaries to travel and where in the world would you choose to go and why? Who would you take with you and what would you be able to do there?

Year 2 Learning Letter Spring 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays!
I hope you have all had a lovely and restful break. I would like to thank you for the kind gifts and cards we received at Christmas. They were very much appreciated by the Year 2 team.

Last half term was a very busy one! We got stuck into our first production, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. I was extremely impressed with their confidence and enthusiasm at such a young age — there are some great performers to keep an eye on!

We also created some wonderful pieces of art linked to our Wild West theme and the children really embraced the whole-school topic with enthusiasm and creativity.

Location, Location, Location!

I hope you are feeling rested and ready to start the new year and the term ahead — I certainly am! This half term, we will be learning about the world we live in. We will be comparing life in Keyworth with Japan and exploring how bustling city life differs from life in a small village. In English, we will be reading *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* and using the story to inspire and support our writing. Please refer to the Creative Curriculum Map for more information about our learning this half term.

Homework and reading

Each week, your child will be listened to by myself or Mr Clarke, alongside our three guided reading sessions focused on developing fluency and comprehension. Homework will be set on Fridays and due in on Wednesdays, including a spelling task linked to our current learning and a maths activity. PE takes place on Mondays; please ensure PE kits remain in school until half term and are clearly named.

As the children head into their second term, we encourage them to join the morning line independently to help build their confidence and independence. I know many of you are already doing this — it's wonderful to see, so please keep it up!