

Year 2 — What We're Learning

Our theme for the second half term: Beach Detectives: Caring for Beach

This covers the second half of the autumn term (12th October – 27th November, with half term from 26th–30th October, and an INSET day on Monday 2nd November when school is closed to children). During this time, Year 2 will be exploring **Beach Detectives: Caring for Beach** — finding out about the seas and oceans around the UK, exploring the beaches, ports and lighthouses of our own North East coast, and discovering why our beaches and oceans need protecting. This sits within our whole-school theme, **Our World Awareness**.

Our CARE Curriculum

Beach Detectives is one of four themes your child will explore this year, each linked to one of our whole-school curriculum drivers — which together spell CARE: Connected, Awareness, Respected, and Evolving. For Year 2, 'Awareness' means looking beyond the classroom to the coastline on our doorstep — how people use it, and why it needs looking after.

Our School Value: RESILIENT

We'll start by reading *Little People, BIG DREAMS: Muhammad Ali* as a class. Muhammad trained hard, got back up after defeat and stood up for what he believed in, even when it cost him. This links to our school value of being RESILIENT, and to this unit's theme: beach litter keeps coming back, so Beach Detectives need resilience too — picking up, speaking up and never giving up on protecting our beaches and oceans.

Geography and Science this half term

We're learning about our coastline, and how humans and animals grow and stay healthy:

- The seas and oceans around the UK, and the physical features of a coast, using local beaches such as Roker, Whitburn and South Shields
- How people use the coast — ports, harbours and lighthouses such as the Port of Tyne, Seaham Harbour and Souter Lighthouse — and how we can protect it from plastic pollution
- Why hygiene and exercise matter, including washing our hands and caring for our teeth
- Matching animals to their offspring, and how animals grow and change through their life cycle

At home, you could talk about a beach you've visited — was it sandy or rocky? What features can you remember? — and look for plastic at home you could reuse or recycle.

Maths this half term

We're building on our number work and exploring shape:

- Addition and Subtraction — adding and subtracting 1- and 2-digit numbers, using number bonds and checking our answers
- Shape — recognising, naming and describing 2D and 3D shapes

At home, you could practise number bonds to 10 and 20, or go on a shape hunt around the house.

English this half term

Exploring and performing the poem *Someone* by Walter de la Mare, then using the poet's ideas to plan and write a poem of our own.

Music this half term

Singing together — exploring how singing helps people work together, including call-and-response sea shanties, and keeping a steady pulse.

RE this half term

Festivals — how do they celebrate the natural world? Exploring harvest festival, the Jewish festivals of Sukkot and Tu B'Shvat, and the story of Holi, and the idea of caring for the world we share.

Conversation starters to try at home

- Ask: "What is the difference between a sea and an ocean?"
- Ask: "Why do we have lighthouses?"
- Ask: "Who is responsible for keeping our beaches clean?"
- Ask: "What do you think made Muhammad Ali resilient?"
- Try together: next time you wash your hands or brush your teeth, talk about why it keeps us healthy!

Words you might hear at home

ocean, sea, coast, island, aerial view, pollution, freestanding, offspring, life cycle, protect, evaluate

A note on our PSHE lessons

This term's PSHE covers feeling proud and feeling worried, why relationships are important, how to deal with change, and what empathy and respect mean. It's delivered through Pol-Ed, a PSHE programme run in partnership with Northumbria Police and fully aligned to statutory RSHE guidance, taught sensitively and appropriately for Year 2. [Find out more about Pol-Ed for parents here.](#)

Supporting emotional regulation — TGMC

Alongside our curriculum, we use The Good Morning Club (TGMC) to help children understand how their brains and emotions work, building their confidence, resilience and ability to self-regulate. As a TGMC school, families have free access to the TGMC [Parent Portal](#), with bite-sized video advice and access to the Digital Backpack, to help keep strategies consistent between school and home.

Keep in touch

This overview covers the second half of the autumn term — for what's happening week to week, keep an eye on our school newsletter, which shares more detail on learning as it happens.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Resilient