

**Welcome back!** We hope you've all had a good break ahead of this busy half term. We look forward to meeting with you at Parents' Evenings or review meetings, at the Christmas Fair and of course at our Year 2 Christmas Production in December.

**Key Dates:**

3<sup>rd</sup> November INSET Day  
4<sup>th</sup> November School Opens  
10<sup>th</sup> November Anti-Bullying Week  
10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November Parent Teacher Meetings  
21<sup>st</sup> November Children in Need  
5<sup>th</sup> December Christmas dinner and jumper day  
9<sup>th</sup> December Year 2 Christmas production (afternoon and evening performances)  
18<sup>th</sup> December Year 2 Christmas party  
19<sup>th</sup> December Last day before school closes

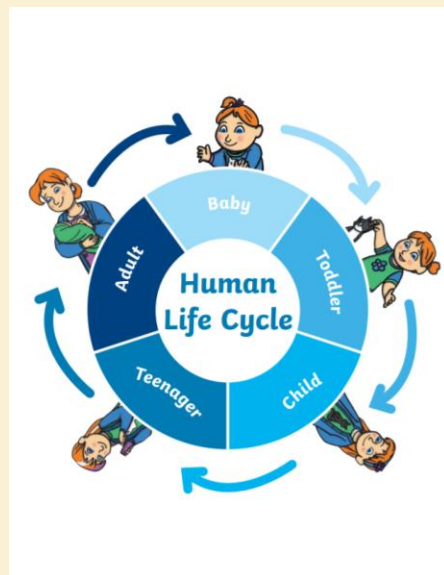
**Christmas Holidays**

5<sup>th</sup> January INSET  
6<sup>th</sup> January School reopens

**Supporting your child at home:**

Thank you for your ongoing support with your child's learning at home. Please read regularly with your child each week, focussing not only on fluency, but comprehension skills as well. Weekly spellings to practise at home will be sent out each Friday, and there will be a written check the following Friday. This will help the children to learn the Year 2 spelling rules. For Maths, it would help your child to count in 2s, 5s and 10s, perhaps whilst skipping or jumping! Another key skill to practise is the recall of number bonds up to 10 and then 20.

# Growing Strong



**Computing:** The focus of this half term will be photography. This we closely linked to our artwork inspired by Lucia Fainzilber.

**PSHE:** We will be focusing on building and maintaining safer relationships, including online. We will discuss hurtful behaviour, resisting pressure, managing secrets and how to get help if needed.

**Creative Curriculum:** This half term we begin with a historical focus, studying and comparing the work and lives of Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole and Edith Cavell to understand their impact on hygienic practices within healthcare. This will lead on to our science-based learning, where we will explore the different ways that humans maintain a healthy lifestyle. We will discuss the importance of good hygiene in keeping our bodies healthy, including learning how germs spread. We will learn why exercise is an important factor in staying healthy, and why a healthy balance in the variety of foods we eat is important. This will then link to our artwork - looking through the lens - studying and creating food-based photography, considering arrangements and colour in our work.

**English:** This term, our writing will be linked to our learning about significant women who made a difference as nurses during wartime, leading to the children writing a non-chronological report about Florence Nightingale. As part of their writing journey the children will make and use notes and explore factual sentence types and vocabulary. Most children will move away from the Little Wandle books and will have a weekly guided reading session, focussing on comprehension skills. Spelling practise will take place 4 times a week, building on the phonics-based learning to introduce Year 2 spelling rules. There will also be daily handwriting practise.

**Maths:** Our focus this half term is addition and subtraction, using known facts (for example bonds within 20) to add and subtract numbers up to 100. We will use a range of manipulatives and visual models to support our learning and develop fluency. We will deepen our understanding through reasoning tasks that allow the children to explain their mathematical thinking. We will again have a weekly lesson on shape, furthering our understanding of properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will also have a weekly lesson on shape, developing our understanding of properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

**RE:** We will continue to explore the Islamic faith by looking at sacred places and what happens in a mosque. We will also read and discuss the Christmas Story.



**Music:** In music we will be learning our songs for our Christmas production. Children will develop their confidence with a focus on using expression in their voice and responding to pulse and rhythm of music through movement.

**PE:** Indoor PE will take place on a Friday, with the focus on dance this half term in lead up to our Christmas performance. On a Thursday morning, we will continue to carry out 'Smile for a Mile'. Outdoor Games sessions with the coaches will be on Mondays. Please make sure your child always has the correct kit in school, including warm clothes for outdoors, and that it is all clearly labelled.

