

## What can I do to help my child at home?

### Reading

Ask questions about the book so that your child can demonstrate their understanding of what they have read. Encourage your child to add new vocabulary to the lists of words they recognise in their reading and can use in their writing. A great way to do this is through stories. Whilst reading, stop and discuss interesting words and their meaning. Encourage your child to be passionate about words – have them write a list of their favourite words and discuss what they like about them, and write a list of your own, too.

### Writing

Always encourage your child to read back their writing, checking for accuracy and any mistakes e.g. spelling errors in words containing previously learnt spelling rules and grammatical errors. We focus on capital letters, full stops, question marks, commas in lists and possessive and contracting apostrophes in year 2. Encourage your child to form letters correctly, write in an appropriate size and to always take pride in their work and write neatly.

### Maths

Using number skills to solve problems in 'real life' is a key focus in Year 2, and it's an easy skill for children to practise with you at home. Schools refer to 'real life' problems as word problems. By the end of Year 2, the aim is for children to be able to add and subtract numbers up to 100. Show them how to underline the important and relevant parts of the word problem (i.e. important numbers for solving the problem as well as useful vocabulary altogether, total, difference, less etc.).

One focus in Year 2 is for children to learn how to make one amount in various ways. For this, you'll need a small purse (or a few if you have them) and some coins. Ask your child to make amounts in at least two different ways using coins and put them in the purse(s). You can make it harder by adding rules, for instance "use only silver coins to make 30p in two different ways." Try to use cash as much as possible in real life, for example at local shops and school fairs.

Children in Year 2 are encouraged to develop faster skills when it comes to mental calculations and other number knowledge. For instance, they should learn to: recognise odd and even numbers, mentally add and subtract 10 and multiples of 10 (for example,  $3 + 10$ ,  $24 - 20$ ) and multiply by 2, 5, and 10 "in their heads". Lots of practise of 2,5- and 10-times tables and the matching division facts is very helpful in developing mathematical fluency. It also sets them up nicely for year 3!

