



LOWER KEY STAGE TWO YEAR 3 AND 4 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2020

Welcome to a new academic year; Miss Hanson and I are thrilled to welcome you back into school. We hope that you are all bursting with as much excitement as we are to begin developing our skills and exploring our fascinating topics this term. We cannot wait to support you as you continue to flourish in Year 3 and 4.

Reminders

What to bring to school:

- a named water bottle (containing water only),
- a named lunch box,
- a reading book,
- a healthy snack,
- a coat.

These items should be carried in or with your child's book bag, which will fit into their drawer in the classroom. Please note we will request that any surplus items or rucksacks are taken home when your child is brought to school in the mornings. Children are not able to bring soft toys, figures or any other personal items into school. We will provide a range of play equipment for our class to use at break and lunch times.

PE:

From September, children will be coming into school in their full PE kit on our allocated PE days – please do not bring PE bags into school. Please note ALL PE lessons will take place outside. Therefore, please ensure that a pair of PE trousers and a jumper is provided. Children should wear trainers rather than plimsolls. If your child has had their ears pierced and is unable to take the earrings out for PE, please ensure that you provide microporous tape/plasters for the children to cover their earlobes with. **Our class PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday, commencing on Tuesday 8th September.**

Curriculum

During the Autumn term, our curriculum lessons, as well as some English lessons, will be focused on the following topics:

Science – Rocks, All Living Things and Animals Including Humans (A).

History – The Evolution of Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, followed by Dragons and Myths. Our Art and D&T work will also link to these topics.

ICT – Introducing, familiarising and teaching the children to use our exciting new ICT equipment. There will also be opportunities for curriculum related research.

Homework

In year 3 and 4, the homework set allows the children to practise key skills linked directly to the Lower Key Stage 2 Curriculum. Regular reading, weekly spellings and times tables homework activities are mandatory. Weekly spelling tests will take place each Monday and weekly Times Tables assessments will take place on Tuesdays. Reading books will be changed once a week each Monday, and new spellings will be sent home on the same day.

Regular Reading:

- Reading has been proven to have an invaluable impact on children's progress within Literacy. Short, regular reading sessions at home are important to support children's fluency and comprehension of the range of texts that they read. In the middle of your child's Reading Record you will find a page dedicated to questions and discussion points which you could refer to when reading with your child.
- **Children should read aloud for a minimum of 10 minutes per day, 3-5 times per week.** Please tick and initial your child's reading record each time they read to you; the children have the opportunity to achieve reading awards throughout the year. Please note any comments in your child's reading record and encourage your child to use the reading list pages on the front and back covers to keep a record of the books/texts that they read at home.
- **Please ensure that your child's reading record is sent in to school every day. Ensure that any reading at home is recorded in your child's reading record; we closely monitor and record the number of times that the children are reading at home. When your child has read 1:1 with an adult at school we will place a sticker in their reading record.**

Weekly spellings

- Spellings set will either link to statutory spelling rules being taught, homophones, Common Exception Words or common misspellings from classwork. As with reading at home, we closely monitor the results of spelling tests. Spelling forms a large part of the English curriculum, it is very important that the children practise regularly.

Weekly times tables

- **Please note the Year 4 statutory times tables assessment will take place during this academic year. Therefore, it is of great importance that the children practise their times tables regularly to achieve fluency and rapid recall.**
- Please continue to use Times Tables Rockstars; it is a superb tool for developing fluency and rapid recall of both times tables and division facts. We were thrilled by the enthusiasm shown last year and during the partial school closure – the progress during that period was remarkable – let's keep that momentum.

- **The children should aim to complete 4-5 games, five times per week. Please note – the ‘Soundcheck’ option is perfect practise for the Year 4 Statutory Times Tables check; the children have just 6 seconds to answer each question.** I will send home a letter which contains the username and password for your child (their log in information can also be found on the first page of their Reading Record), along with some FAQs. However, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries and I will do my best to help.

Termly projects:

- Occasionally, the children will be set a creative project that links to our curriculum topic. This will be an extended piece of homework and the children will have three weeks to complete it.

Timetable

This term our daily timetable will include English, mathematics, Class Collective Worship and Wellbeing and Mindfulness lessons. Please note, there may be minor changes made throughout the term dependent on the learning taking place during the week. We will continue to teach Science in week long blocks.

- Monday: Reading and ICT/Curriculum
- Tuesday: Music and PE
- Wednesday: PE and Reading
- Thursday: Reading and ICT/Curriculum
- Friday: RE and PSHE

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office if you have any queries, questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Miss Beth Benton