

LKS2 Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the start of the new school year in Lower Key Stage 2.

We hope you have all had an enjoyable, relaxing summer break. The LKS2 team are excited to be welcoming the children back for the start of a new school year. Below we have included key information regarding topics, events, dates and routines that will be taking place this term. We hope that by keeping you informed, your child can make a smooth transition into his or her new class.

Teaching Staff

Year 3 - Miss Cork

Year 3/4 - Mr Cunha

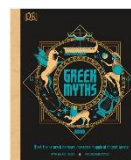
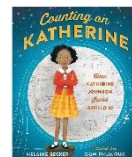
Year 4 - Mr Sutton

Teaching assistants - Mrs Carney and Mrs Grimshaw

Our Curriculum this term.

English - This term, we will be exploring a new and exciting book called *Counting on Katherine* and we will be reading an assortment of Greek Myths which will help us further explore our Ancient Greeks topic. Using these books, we will write recounts, non-chronological reports and narratives.

As a class, we will read, share and examine the text 'Rise up' by Amanda Li. This is a collection of true stories about inspiring children from around the world. Grammar, punctuation and spelling will continue to be an important aspect of all pieces of work.



Maths - We will continue to follow the sequence within our maths mastery programme, Power Maths. Power Maths is a whole class mastery programme designed to spark curiosity and excitement and help teachers nurture confidence in maths. At the heart of Power Maths is the belief that all children can achieve. It's built around a child-centred lesson design that models and embeds a growth mind-set approach to maths and develop skills in fluency, reasoning, investigation and problem solving. This term's work will initially include work consolidating and reviewing Place Value. We will then move on to addition and subtraction work before looking at multiplication and division strategies.

Science - During our topic of Animals including humans, we will study the main body parts and internal organs, looking at their functions and why they are so important. We will also look to understand how the circulatory system enables the body to function. We will then explore teeth and the similarities and differences that can be found within the animal kingdom. This will include how we should look after our own teeth. Finally we will look at prey, producers and predators within a food chain and the children will be required use diagrams to ask and answer questions relating to this.



History - We will research and explore the lives of the Ancient Greeks and consider the impact that they have on our lives today in Britain. We will examine some of the main characteristics of the Athenians and Spartans. Learn about the influence the gods had on Ancient Greece and look at some of the events from the Ancient Greek Olympics



Geography - We will identify the environmental regions of Europe and the main human and physical features such as biomes, climate zones and vegetation belts. We will name and locate the main mountains and rivers of Europe and identify main cities that are built near rivers. Making meaningful links to our Learning in History, we will use maps atlases globes & digital/computer mapping to locate Greece and the Ancient Greek Empire. We will describe geographical features and constraints on their location and how their need for trade to obtain food and minerals led to the spread of their influence on the western world.

D.T. - We will learn about the process and history of bread making, learning all about the importance of ingredients and good hygiene. We will then choose our flavours and bake our own loaf of bread to evaluate and eat!

ICT - After revising the importance of E-Safety, we will carry out look at how networks are used within school. We will move on to creating our own comics with links to our history topic, using the app Book Creator after half term.

RE - Our enquiry question this term will be, "How do Christians use symbols to explain what God is like?" We will learn about different opinions and views to help us be understanding and respectful.

ART - As artists we will learn about illustrators and their importance in stories. We will explore how charcoal and colour can be used to convey emotion. We will illustrate a "nonsense" poem using our learnt skills.

MFL - This term, we are excited to welcome Mme. Munum, who will be teaching French to the children. As a fluent French speaker, she will develop accurate pronunciation and intonation as well as supporting them in developing their written language. During the sessions, children will explore the patterns and sounds of language and engage in conversations to develop vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures. Children will be encouraged to read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing. They will create sentences to describe people, places and things both orally and in writing



Music - We will sing a widening range of songs in unison, with varying styles and structures. We will learn Italian terms for dynamics, play and perform melodies following staff notation using 5 notes. We will compose song accompaniments on tuned and untuned percussion and compose a piece of music using a given structure.

Music Taster Evening

A meeting will be held in school with the peripatetic music. This is the ideal opportunity to meet the teachers and listen to the instruments available.



PSHE - PSHE will be focussing on a **Keeping and Staying Safe** unit, focuses on equipping your child with essential life skills to ensure their safety and well-being. They are learning to recognize risky situations, identify trusted adults, differentiate between safe and risky choices, spot warning signs of potential dangers, understand home hazards, and the significance of listening to trusted adults.



This year, we will continue incorporating the 'My Happy Minds' mental and emotional wellbeing programme into our timetable. Once a week, all children in school will participate in activities linked to five modules - meet the brain, celebrate, appreciate, relate and engage. Each module introduces a new set of content and habits to help children build resilience, self-esteem and confidence.

PE sessions

A PE/Games kit is required on the following days.

Monday	Mr Cunha
Tuesday	Mr Sutton
Thursday	Miss Cork
Friday	Indoor PE- All classes



PE kit - house t-shirt, dark jogging bottoms. (This can be left in school in a named bag.)

Games kit - dark jogging bottoms, house T-shirt, trainers and spare socks. A carrier bag is useful to bring this occasionally wet and dirty kit home.

For safety reasons, please ensure children have long hair tied back and any earrings that cannot be removed will be covered with tape.

Exciting upcoming events to look out for. - more details to follow

- Thursday 14th September - Musical Instrument 'Taster Session'
- Week beginning 25th September - European Day of Languages
- Week beginning 9th October - Parents' Evening
- Week beginning 13th November Anti-Bullying Week.
- Week beginning 20th November Anti-Bullying workshop.



Theme Weeks

During the week beginning 25th September, we will celebrate European Languages Day. We will be holding a French themed day, where the children will learn more about French songs, food and language. We hope that on the Thursday, you will encourage your child to dress in a French themed costume. A simple style outfit which simply comprises of the French flag colours would be ideal, or something more elaborate would be brilliant!



Lost Property

Please add names to all your children's clothing and equipment so that if lost they can be returned to them.

Homework

Children will receive a half termly spelling list and ideas on how to learn the words. Spellings should be learnt weekly for tests on Fridays. Children should spend about 20 minutes per week on these spelling tasks.

In addition, we would expect children to read on a regular basis. We still believe it is a positive and beneficial exercise for children to read aloud to parents/ grandparents/older brothers and sisters at home. Even at this

stage, it is extremely helpful if you encourage discussion about the plot, characters, and what may happen in the story.

One child will be selected each week to complete the reading scrapbook. Please return this to school by the following Wednesday so that it can be shared with the rest of the class.

There will be six pieces of optional homework suggested every half term. These will directly link to our school values and will support your child's learning in different subjects within the curriculum. Tasks can be completed at any point in the half term and completed work will be celebrated in school. Please note, these tasks are completely optional but have been planned to provide a broad range of activities that the children will enjoy.

A separate sheet with your children's log in details will be provided along with more information on homework.

If your child is struggling to complete the allocated piece within this time, please let us know. We do understand that many children take part in activities outside school and this is the reason we have tried to provide a fair and reasonable system so that children can continue to enjoy these clubs without too much homework pressure.

Accelerated Reading

As part of our continued commitment to raising standards and progress in reading, all pupils have a reading book, which is part of the Accelerated Reading Scheme. Accelerated Reading is a scheme which levels all reading books within school. Once your child has read their book, they will be able to take an online quiz which will consolidate their understanding of the text. All children will be issued with their own login so that they can complete the quiz related to their book and also monitor their progress and targets. Please access the Accelerated Reader platform for Lower Park by scanning the QR code (right). Within lessons, children will be given targets and rewards to maintain their focus and continue to engage their love of reading. Look out for your child's login and, if there are any problems, please do let us know.



Our School Rule

We should smile, be friendly and care for one another
Be well mannered and polite
Speak the truth
Be fair
Treat each other with respect and how you would like to be treated
Be the best you can be.

School Values



Naturally, we expect a high standard of behaviour and attitude as it is important to achieve a happy and purposeful classroom.

Communication:

As always you are welcome to contact the school, via email, dojo, phone call, if you have any questions or queries.



If you feel that you could offer help in school in any way, for example by hearing children read, enriching a topic or displays please do get in touch.

Finally, we look forward to an exciting and successful year and we thank you for your continuous support and encouragement.

Rosie Cork, Michael Cunha, Andy Sutton, Alison Grimshaw, Carolyn Carney Amelia Lomas. (LKS2 team)