

# UKS2 Newsletter

## Autumn 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

We hope you have all had a good and relaxing summer break. The UKS2 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 5 - Mrs. Jones  
Year 5/6 - Mrs. Potts & Mrs. Day  
Mrs. Duffy (Teaching assistant)  
Year 6 - Mrs. Chadwick  
Mrs. Bailey (Teaching assistant)

### Our Curriculum this term.

**English** - This term, our English work will initially be focussed on the theme of 'black lives matter'. We will read 'Race to the Frozen North - the Matthew Henson Story' by Catherine Johnson and 'Young, Gifted and Black' by Jamia Wilson. As writers, we will discuss and produce a series of diary entries about the significant events in Matthew Henson's life. We will plan writing by identifying audience and purpose.

As a class, we will read, share and examine the text 'Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls' by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo. 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.

**Science** - We will study the main body parts and internal organs to explore and answer questions that help to understand how the circulatory system enables the body to function. We will describe the ways nutrients and water are transported within animals. We will recognise the importance of healthy lifestyle, diet and investigate different effects exercise has on the human body. We will also discuss how to keep our bodies healthy and also how our bodies might be damaged.



**History - Raiders and Invaders** is the topic we will be studying this term and incorporates the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We will investigate their way of life, settlement, their culture and key events.



**D.T.** - We will discuss seasonality and how our food is reared, caught and processed. We will taste seasonal food and design and make a savoury dish. Linked to our body topic, we will consider the nutritional value of different meals and food types.

**Computing** - After revising the importance of E-Safety, we will carry out research on the Vikings and use this to create our own webpage. Using 'Adobe Express', we will design, produce and publish our pages. Through this unit of work, we will gain a greater understanding of 'search engines' and the computer science of how they work.

**RE** - Hinduism will be our focus religion in the first half term. We will ascertain how Hindus show commitment to God. In the second half term, we will study Christianity and evaluate different accounts of the Christmas story.

**ART** - As artists we will explore how 2D drawings can be transformed into 3D objects and work towards a sculptural outcome. We will learn about the British artist, Lubaina Himid.

**MFL** - This term, we are excited to welcome Mrs. 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 develop an understanding of the History of music, looking at Abdelazer Rondeau by Purcell. We will learn to make graphic scores, improvise, compose and perform music with increasing aural memory. We will listen and recall sounds and perform with increasing control, accuracy, fluency and expression.

#### Music Taster Evening

The week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> September, a meeting will be held in school with the peripatetic musicians. This is the ideal opportunity to meet the teachers and listen to the instruments available.



**PSHE** - Linked to our ICT work we will revise keeping safe in cyberspace. We will learn about Nelson Mandela and discuss sustainable development. We will research the Magna Carta and continue to discuss British values such as our rights and responsibilities in society.



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	Indoor PE
Friday	Outdoor games



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 14<sup>th</sup> September - Musical Instrument 'Taster Session'
- Week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> September - European Day of Languages
- Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> October - Parents' Evening
- Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November Anti-Bullying Week.
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Diwali workshop
- Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> November Anti-Bullying workshop.



### Theme Weeks

**During the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> 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!



**After half term**, we will be continuing our topic on a healthy body. Within this unit, we will be discussing the importance of a healthy lifestyle, a balanced diet and regular exercise. We will also discuss the effects of **different types of drugs** (their helpfulness - Calpol, and their addictive nature), **alcohol and smoking**. As part of the session, we will place a cigarette in a plastic bottle with cotton wool. (It is carried out outside away from the children.) This experiment shows how quickly the cotton wool becomes discoloured and the bottle fills with smoke. We will discuss the effects this will have on the lungs. We will discuss the addictive nature of drugs, peer pressure, and the importance of saying 'No'. As these sessions can sometimes promote further discussions at home, we wanted to give you notice. If you would like to discuss anything further, please do contact us.

### Lost Property

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

### Homework

In September, we will be trialling 'Maths Flex' as a maths online homework tool. We will usually set tasks on Fridays to be completed by Wednesday the following week. As 'Maths Flex' is linked to Power Maths, we believe it will be a fantastic resource to enrich the work carried out in class.

Please note: there may be a cross over period where we move from the trial period to the subscription but we will keep you informed and welcome any feedback.

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. Completed homework should be uploaded onto google classroom.

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.

Barbara Chadwick, Jo Jones, Lucy Potts, Helen Day, Kath Bailey, Julie Duffy, Amelia Lomas. (UKS2 team)