

# UKS2 Newsletter

## Spring 2024



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, may we wish you a very Happy New Year and extend a warm welcome, back to school, after what we hope has been a wonderful Christmas break. We hope you have all had a great rest and are enjoying the start of this new term. Below, we have outlined information regarding staffing, routines, homework as well as the curriculum activities and events planned for this spring term.

### 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, we will be using the text 'Arthur and the Golden Rope' to explore myths. This text follows the story of young Arthur, who embarks upon a quest to seek out the help of the Viking gods in relighting a fire before the villagers back home freeze to death. In return for their help, Thor sets his own quest for Arthur to complete.

Throughout the unit we will be working hard to 'master': more advanced punctuation and sentence structures; use of the passive voice (Y6); and cohesion in our writing. We will then use all the skills we have learned to write a myth for our final piece.

**Maths** - We will continue to follow the sequence within our maths mastery programme - 'Power Maths'. This will include work consolidating and reviewing Place Value and arithmetic. Other topics covered will include decimals, percentages, algebra, measure, area and perimeter, ratio and proportion.



**Science** - This term, our focus revolves around the themes of 'Evolution and Adaptation' and 'Materials'. Delving into the past, we will explore the significance of fossils in uncovering details about the Earth millions of years ago. Through discussions, we will learn about the inheritance of characteristics, recognising how variation in offspring influence adaptability to environments. We will investigate evolution and understand how animals and plants adapt to diverse environments. Later in the term, we will investigate materials by comparing and grouping based on their properties using evidence from planned enquiries and use appropriate techniques and apparatus. We will discuss reasons for the uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic. Using our knowledge of materials, we will make informed decisions on how to mix and separate materials, exploring changes of state. We will understand that although some changes are reversible and that irreversible changes result in the formation of new materials. During the work, we aim to foster an understanding of these scientific concepts, encouraging curiosity and critical thinking. As always, we look forward to an enriching term filled with exploration and discovery.

**Geography** - As Geographers we will focus on South America. We will learn to name and locate all countries using eight points on compass to describe the location of one South American country to another.

We will match the country to its capital cities as well as investigating other main cities in a selection of countries. We will gain a deeper understanding of the continent by studying the different environmental regions of South America researching vegetation, average temperatures, rainfall etc. We will use digital mapping to help us look at the different landscapes of South America.

We will name and identify the Andes, referencing the effect of earthquakes on people. We will make reference to the latitude and longitude and then find other places on Google Maps with the same line of latitude etc. We will focus on Brazil as a country researching and conducting an in-depth study before working on our own personal project to each investigate one country in South America. We will investigate its human and physical characteristics by considering population, area in square kilometres, average temperature and rainfall, data and statistics on the types of trade. We will then decide how to present our findings to share with the rest of the class. We will listen to each other, and collect the facts on each country to create our own passport of South America.

**D.T.** - As designers, we will develop skills of **sewing textiles**. As part of the design we will investigate how to make a pattern, a prototype, sew and shape curved edges, tack, attach ornaments, and learn how to start and finish off a row of stitches.

**Computing** - This term, we will be using the app 'Keynote' to design and create our own app prototype. We will plan and design a number of slides on Keynote adding in shapes, changing the background and adding in images. To create a working app prototype, we will link texts, shapes and images to other slides in the project. Finally, we will evaluate our work.

**RE** - The children will continue their learning on Hindu Dharma during the first half of the Spring term. They will answer the question, 'How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?' During Easter time, they will look at the Easter story, particularly answering the question, 'How significant is it that God intended Jesus to die?'

**ART** - As artists we will create a mixed media land and cityscapes by using a variety of media to capture the spirit of a place.

**MFL** - This term, Mme. Munum, will continue to explore with the children, the patterns and sounds of language and engage in conversations with them 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** - As musicians, through samba, we will compose and use a grid to notate rhythms. They will maintain a part within a group with awareness of the performance. They will comment and explain combinations of sounds and their expressive use. They will perform by ear and explain how changes affect the mood, character and sense of a piece of music. (Samba/Improvising Colours)

**PSHE** - Our PSHE focus uses our 1 Decision scheme of work (<https://www.1decision.co.uk/resources/parent-carer-zone>) to teach children to understand the following themes:

**Being Responsible:** a module helps children to develop a deeper understanding of being responsible for themselves and how their actions can affect those around them.

**A World Without Judgement:** this unit supports children in exploring and celebrating the diverse world we live in. Students will have the opportunity to research British values and the laws that exist to protect us.

**Anger:** a module which looks at the ways in which we can manage our emotions when we are unable to do something we wanted to.



This term, we will continue incorporating the 'My Happy Minds' mental and emotional wellbeing programme into our timetable. Once a week, all children in school 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 up coming events to look out for.

**1st February** - SATs meeting (Y6) 5 pm

**2nd February** - Number Day - NSPCC. This is always a great way to promote maths in school.

**4th March** - Taster Session at PHS, 9.00am till 12.00pm. (Y6 will meet at PHS)

**7th March** - World Book Day. The children will be involved in a variety of fun and inspiring activities designed to encourage a love of reading.

**March** - We are looking forward to the whole school taking part in National Science Week which will be focused around the theme 'Time'. (Further details to follow.)

**18th - 20th March** - Robinwood (Year 5 residential). Look out for more information about the Robinwood meeting.



### SATS Meeting

This year, the **Year 6** will be sitting their SATs exams on the week beginning **Monday 13th May**. A SATs meeting will be held this term on **1st February at 5.00pm**. This will be an opportunity for teachers to explain more about the SATs tests, revision programme, and ideas about how to help your child. Children are welcome to accompany parents.

### Lost Property

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

### Homework

The children are now using their new maths homework books with great enthusiasm. These booklets enable the children to reinforce and develop maths used in the classroom. Please continue to bring these in to be checked each Wednesday.

Children should have also received their half-termly spelling list. Spellings should continue to 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 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.

### Optional Homework

This term's optional homework can be found on Google Classroom. The activities link directly 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.

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, or 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)