

UKS2 Newsletter

Autumn 2021



Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

With restrictions vastly reduced, we look forward to including many of the usual routines, curriculum activities and events into the termly topics. Kingswood (Year 6), European Languages Day and Healthy Body week are a few of the highlights this Autumn Term. They will incorporate cross curricular experiences and provide inspirational, fun, practical opportunities for the children and their learning. We are looking forward to the children working alongside their own and other year groups, strengthening and forging new friendships, as well as opportunities for extra responsibility.

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 - Mr Stewart
Mrs Mukherjee (Teaching assistant)
- Year 5/6 - Mrs Potts & Mrs Day
Mrs Carney (Teaching assistant)
- Year 6 - Mrs Chadwick (Key Stage 2 coordinator)
Mrs Jones (Acting Deputy Head & SEND coordinator)

We are delighted that Mrs Mukherjee will be back at Lower Park and working in class with UKS2 children.

Our Curriculum this term.

English - This half term the children will be focusing some of their writing and reading around our Anglo-Saxon & Viking topic, 'Traders and Raiders'. As writers, we will be studying and producing explanatory texts based around 'High Diving Giraffes'. We will then be applying this knowledge to our topic on 'Our Body'. We will also be reading and discussing the poem "Beowulf" and making links to our history topic. This text will help us develop our narrative writing and lead us to examine poetry. As a class, we will also share and examine the text 'A Viking Boy', written by Tony Bradman, as a tool to extend our reading skills. 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'. This will initially include work around Place Value and Calculations.

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.

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 - Traders and Raiders 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. We are very excited about an upcoming visit, on Tuesday 28th September, from a specialist in this area who will lead the day and help us immerse ourselves in their culture. A separate letter outlining the day will follow.



Art - We will evaluate the craftsmanship of the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings. We will use pencils, charcoal and clay to convey feeling and expression within our work.

D.T. - Linked to our topic Traders and Raiders we will follow some Anglo-Saxon recipes to make both savoury and sweet dishes. We will consider their nutritional value and compare them to modern day meals. We will discuss seasonality and also reflecting on our Healthy body topic consider the importance of a healthy diet.

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.

ICT - After revising the importance of E-Safety. Linked to the History topic, we will carry out research on the Vikings which will involve investigating videos, the use of audio, titles and credits.

French - During lessons, we will practice phrases used when we meet and greet one another. We will have conversations around visiting a café or discussing food.

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.

PE - We are very pleased that ASM will be continuing to play a part in our PE sessions. Lessons will be led by PE specialists and they will follow a scheme of work that will introduce the children to a range of different sports and PE activities.

PSHE/Wellbeing- 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 & responsibilities in society.

Other Events

Please look out for separate letters to follow with more details.

Tuesday 7th September - Kingswood meeting for Year 6 parents at 6:30pm.

Tuesday 28th September - Traders and Raiders enrichment day. Please try to dress in clothes appropriate to that period.

Musical Instrument 'Taster Session' - Date and time to follow.

30th September - 1st October - European Days of Language

4th - 6th October - Kingswood visit for Year 6 children

18th October - Photographs

19th October - Parents' Evening

20th October - Parents' Evening

4th November - Influenza booster

w/c 15th November - Healthy Schools Week

9th December - Christmas Lunch

10th December - Freddie Fit

w/c 13th December - Christmas shows

17th December - Talent Show



Music

We are pleased to be able to, once again, offer a music taster evening, to KS2 children. This is the ideal opportunity to meet some of the peripatetic music teachers and listen to the instruments available. More information on this evening will follow.



In addition to the instrumental lessons on offer, the school choir will be commencing on Wednesday 15th September with Mrs Mellor. All children from Year 3-6 are welcome to come. However, we do ask they have a commitment to coming and come each week for the term. This will be extra important as we prepare for our Christmas Show this year. We cannot wait to hear the children singing in school again.

The School Swing Band will also be restarting later on in the term with Mrs Marley. This will be run for children that are auditioned. To audition for the band we ask that the children have had at least a year of tuition on their instrument. More details about this will follow in a letter.

The Brass Band will also be restarting at some point this term. Mr Longson will be hosting this club and it will be taking place on a Friday after school. More details will follow in a letter.

All children in Year 5 will be taking part in a weekly brass lesson with Mr Longson. This is part of a whole class teaching provision by the government in which all children should get the opportunity to play musical instruments as part of a whole class lesson for ten weeks, initially. The Love Music Trust (our local Music hub) have provided the instruments for our children. Instruments will be allocated to the children in the coming week. All children will need to bring a form back to school before they will be allowed to take their instruments home. For the Year 5 children, this will replace their normal class Music lessons during the week and hopefully inspire them to continue making music. There will be plans made for continuity for any children that wish to continue after the sessions have finished.

Theme Weeks

On Tuesday 28th September, as a way of enriching our topic on 'Traders and Raiders', we have invited a historical company into school to work with the children. During the day, they will play Anglo Saxon games, experience Viking life and handle artefacts. In order to make the day more entertaining and enjoyable, we would like the children to come dressed in appropriate clothing for that time in history. (They could wear a colourful t-shirt, trousers and a belt or a pinafore and t-shirt.) During that week, we will also be preparing recipes from that period and encouraging the children to sample the food that they make. Look out for a letter to follow soon.

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.

During the week beginning 15th November, we are looking forward to the whole school taking part in a 'healthy body' themed week. During this week, there will be a variety of sporting activities for the children to take part in and so, for that week, we would like the children to come to school in their PE kits. They should also try to remember to bring a water bottle. If there is anyone that feels they would be able to help us enrich this topic (e.g. health, nutrition, sport) please get in touch.

To celebrate European Languages Day, on the 30th September and the 1st October we will be holding French themed days, where the children will learn more about French songs, food and language. We are looking forward to taking part in drama workshops on Thursday led by language specialists from Exchange Theatre. On

the Friday, please encourage your child to dress in a French themed costume. A simple style outfit which comprises of the French flag colours would be ideal, or something more elaborate would be brilliant! Please provide your child with a simple French-themed picnic for our Friday afternoon session.



PE sessions

ASM will be leading the PE sessions this term and we will continue to use the daily mile track so PE sessions will continue to be outside as much as possible. We would still like the children to come to school ready to participate in PE sessions on their allocated days. Therefore, on the days that they will be having PE, children should come to school dressed in tracksuit bottoms, trainers, team coloured sport shirt and school sweatshirt. For safety reasons, please ensure children have long hair tied back and any earrings that cannot be removed will be covered with tape.

Class	Days to wear PE kit
Mr Stewart	Tuesday & Wednesday
Mrs Potts & Mrs Day	Wednesday & Thursday
Mrs Chadwick & Mrs Jones	Wednesday & Thursday



Setting Arrangements

Children will be placed into sets for Maths during the week beginning 13th September. The setting process takes a considerable amount of time and will be based on assessments done in the summer term, assessments that we will carry out during this week, and through consultation with their previous teachers. We do intend to carefully monitor the children in all sets during the next few weeks and we will make changes if we feel that a child would benefit from a move. Please bear with us during this time, but if you are worried, we would be happy to discuss your concerns.

Working from home

If your child is absent from school and requires work, they can continue with maths and English using the 'Oak Academy' website. Topic lessons can be found on seesaw or will be emailed.

Lost Property

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

Homework

Maths and English homework will usually be issued on Fridays. We would like this to be completed and submitted by the following Wednesday.

Maths homework will be issued online using the Mathletics website. Teachers will be reminding children how to access their homework and issue log-in details next week. In English, children will receive homework to support tasks completed in class.

He/she will also receive a spelling book with lists that should be learnt weekly. Children should spend an additional 20 minutes per week on these spelling tasks.



Teachers expect children to take around twenty minutes for each English and maths homework to be completed. 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.

In addition, we would expect children to read on a regular basis and again this should be recorded in planners. 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.

Children have 'Homework Planners' to record their homework and teachers will help your child to write details and dates. Please check planners regularly throughout the week and sign them each weekend.

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. 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 and be friendly, be well-mannered and polite, speak the truth, be fair, treat each other well and with respect.

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 would like to thank you for your continued support and encouragement and we look forward to this new academic year.

Keep safe and well,

Helen Day, Ashley Stewart, Jo Jones, Lucy Potts, Barbara Chadwick, Nevin Deakin, Carolyn Carney and Heather Mukherjee.
(UKS2 team).