

# UKS2 Newsletter

## Spring 2022



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 - 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)

### Our Curriculum this term.

**English** - This term, we will use 'Jaguar in the chicken coop' as inspiration for our own South American narrative. The children will also compose poetry, using powerful imagery, to describe and bring to life, an area in South America, such as the rainforest or the Amazon River. We will explore and interact with stories from other cultures such as The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry or Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson. Based on the text, 'The Pros and Cons of Plastic', the children will write a discursive text and make links to our science work. As a class, we will be sharing and examining the text, 'The Explorer' by Katherine Rundell. Through discussion, we will consider the author's intent and language choices as well as developing and extending 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'. 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** - During science lessons, we will compare and group **materials** based on observations and fair tests. We will plan and carry out enquiries so that we can present our findings and give conclusions based on scientific evidence. Later in the term, we will study **evolution & adaptation**. We will research how fossils can be used to provide information about living things that inhabited the Earth millions of years ago. We will investigate evolution and identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment. We will make links with South America and the different habitats that exist there.



**Geography** - In our topic, Explorers, the children will locate the world's countries using maps. We will focus on **South America**, concentrating on its environmental regions, key physical & human characteristics, countries and major cities.

**Art** - As artists we will study the work produced by Georgia O'Keeffe and how **nature** is presented in artwork.



Children will then use this as an inspiration for their own art and present it using different medium such as charcoal, paint, tissue and oil pastels.

**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.

**RE** - **Hinduism** and their beliefs will be our focus religion in the first half term. We will question how Brahman can be everywhere and in everything. During the second half term, we will be reflecting on the meaning of Easter to **Christians**.

**ICT** - After revising the importance of E-Safety. We will email communication with a zoo about South American animals and design a template for a collection box for the zoo.

**French** - In our 'Let's Visit a French Town' work, we will apply skills and knowledge around places in a town, directions and homes. We will use bilingual dictionaries and increase our understanding of word classes.



**Music** - As musicians, through samba, we will compose and use a grid to notate rhythms. We will maintain a part within a group with awareness of the performance. We will comment and explain combinations of sounds and their expressive use. We will perform by ear and explain how changes affect the mood, character and sense of a piece of music.

Year 5, will continue their Friday brass lesson with Mr Longson.



**PSHE/Wellbeing-** We will learn about inspirational people and gain a breadth of language with which to describe their qualities and skills. We will use this learning to reflect on the qualities and skills of our peers and learn how everyone has their part to play in taking social action. We will learn about the meaning of the word philanthropy through looking at real life examples and consider its importance.

### Exciting upcoming events to look out for.

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> February** - DRUHM Workshop to promote Mental Health week. This is a creative and fun filled drumming session. It encompasses different areas of the curriculum and focuses on making everyone feel happy, healthier, fitter and stronger. (More information to follow soon.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> March** - Parents and children's SATS meeting

**3rd March** - World Book Day. The children will be involved in a variety of fun and inspiring activities designed to encourage a love of reading.

**14<sup>th</sup> March** - We are looking forward to the whole school taking part in National Science Week which will be focused around the theme 'Growth'. During this week, there will be exciting enrichment opportunities for all the children. (Further details to follow.)

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> March** - Ilam (Year 5 residential). Look out for more information about the Ilam meeting.



### PE sessions

ASM will continue to support our PE sessions and we will use the daily mile track so PE sessions will be outside as much as possible. Children should 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, which cannot be removed, to 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



### Working from home

If your child is absent from school and requires work, they can continue with Power Maths and will be directed to English using the 'Oak Academy' website. Topic lessons can be found on google classroom 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/topic 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/topic, 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/topic 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.



### **SATS Meeting**

This year, the **Year 6** will be sitting their SATs exams in the week beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May. A SATs meeting will be held this term on **Wednesday 2nd March at 6.30pm**. 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.

### **Our School Rules**

**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, Amelia Lomas, Carolyn Carney and Heather Mukherjee.

(UKS2 team).