

UKS2 Newsletter

Autumn 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to start by saying how extremely excited we are to be welcoming all the children back into the classroom for the start of a new school year. At the end of the last school year, we were so incredibly proud of the way in which the children managed their online learning and we hope you have had a well-deserved and enjoyable summer break.

Although, this term, the school environment and set up may be a little different, we are looking forward to teaching and learning many interesting topics and also participating in curriculum events such as World Languages Day.

During the first few weeks of this term, there will be a large emphasis on PSHE work centred solely around our 'Recovery Curriculum'. This will be predominantly focusing on settling children back into their new classroom arrangements, routines and structure through a range of different children's books. In addition, we will be discussing important aspects such as our sense of community, friendships, worries and guiding the children in a range of useful coping strategies. We hope that by keeping you informed, your child can make a smooth transition into his or her new class. Below we have included key information regarding topics, dates and routines that will be taking place this term.

Teaching Staff

- Year 5 - Mrs Potts & Mrs Day
Mrs Carney (Teaching assistant)
- Year 5 - Mr Stewart
- Year 6 - Mrs Chadwick (**Key Stage 2 coordinator**)
- Year 6 - Mrs Jones (SEND coordinator)
Mrs Duffy (Teaching assistant)

Our Curriculum this term.

English - This half term the children will be focusing their writing and reading around our topic on North America. As writers, we will discuss and produce a variety of different written styles, including newspaper reports, biographies, poetry and persuasive texts. As a class we will read, share and examine, the text, The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks. 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 consolidating and reviewing Place Value.

Science - Our topics this term are 'Electricity' and 'Forces'. Therefore, we will understand movement, forces and magnets. We will explain gravity, friction, air and water resistance. We will also investigate electricity and construct simple series circuits, answering questions about what happens when we try introducing and increasing different components, for example, switches, bulbs, buzzers and motors. We will learn how to represent a simple circuit in a diagram using symbols.

Geography - During lessons, we will locate the world's countries and then focus on North America. We will locate American countries and major cities and then look specifically at one location. We will concentrate on environmental regions and identify the human and physical characteristics of that specific place and how it has changed over time.

Art - We will compare and examine the work of the American artists Jasper Johns (1950s) and Jackson Pollock (1930s & 40s). We will produce our own pieces using a range of media such as pencil, paint, oil pastel and charcoal, and add tissue or glue to add texture. We will also compare the works of modern artist Tim Burton with classic artist George Caitlin.

D.T. - Linked to our topic on forces, we will investigate and use mechanical systems to construct a moving toy. We will design, make, evaluate and improve them.

RE - Islam will be our focus religion. We will study their beliefs and practices

ICT - After revising the importance of E-Safety. We will produce 3D alien world, including multiple enemies, different levels and scoring system; whilst looking at the gaming industry in the USA

French - As Linguists, we will practise phrases used when we meet and greet one another and when we are „getting to know each other.

Music - We will learn to appreciate live and recorded music and develop an understanding of the history of music focussing on Tchaikovsky. We will develop rhythmic patterns, compose and perform music using the inter-related dimensions of music. We will perform in solo and ensemble thinking about control, fluency and expression. BBC - The Nutcracker (Tchaikovsky)

PE - During yoga sessions, we will develop our flexibility, strength, technique, control and balance. During dance, we will build sequences of movement and evaluate our own performances, as well as others, so that improvements can be made. We will concentrate on orienteering using the local environment and outdoors to build and develop skills.

PSHE/Wellbeing- At first, our priority is securing children back into the school environment through 'The Recovery Curriculum'. We will then learn about respecting and exploring what the word respect means and consider different types of behaviour and whether they are respectful or not. We will learn about our right to freedom and how this comes with responsibilities towards others. We will explore what rules are, why we need them and create a set of rules for our classroom. We will learn what individual liberty means and why we have to balance our own wants and needs with the wants and needs of others.

Other Events

17th September - Musical Instrument 'Taster Session' at 7.30pm (via Zoom link - this will be sent out at a later date). This date is subject to the availability of the music teachers, therefore; to be confirmed

Week beginning 26st September - World Language Days (Thursday/Friday)

2nd October - World Rainbow Day (Remembering Extraordinary People)

23rd October - Harvest Festival

20th October - Parents' Evening (via zoom)

21st October - Parents' Evening (via zoom)

Music Taster Evening

We would normally have a meeting in school with the peripatetic music teachers at the beginning of the school year. This is the ideal opportunity to meet the teachers and listen to the instruments available.

This year will be slightly different initially as the teachers will not be able to teach lessons in school due to the current guidelines and restrictions in the same way as before.

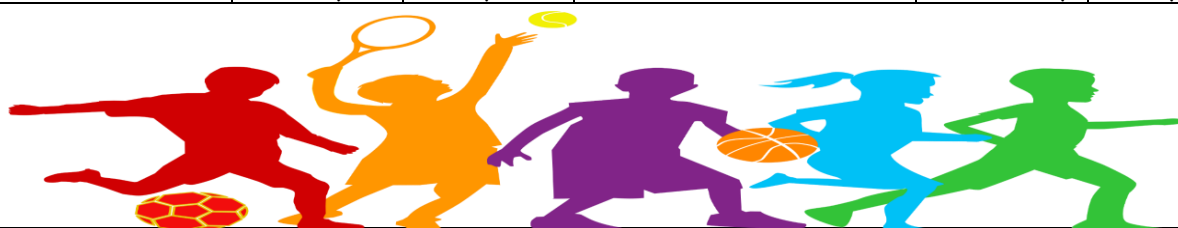
Some of the teachers are continuing to offer lessons, either by zoom or private tuition which the children may wish to participate in. During the evening, the teachers will be available through zoom to tell you more about these arrangements. The meeting is to be confirmed.

PE sessions

We will continue to use the daily mile track and carry out indoor and outdoor PE activities. Children will be outside as much as possible. As we cannot move classrooms for changing, we ask that the children come to school ready to participate in PE sessions. Therefore, on the days that they will be having PE, children should

come to school dressed in black or dark grey tracksuit bottoms, trainers, school polo shirt and school sweatshirt.

	Inside	Outside		Inside	Outside
Mrs Chadwick	Thursday	Friday	Mrs Potts & Mrs Day	Wednesday	Friday
Mrs Jones	Tuesday	Friday	Mr Stewart	Wednesday	Friday



Working from home

If your child is absent from school and requires work due to Covid-related reasons, they can continue with maths and English using the 'Oak Academy' website. Topic lessons can be found on Seesaw or additional work will be emailed to you.

Lost Property

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

Homework

At the beginning of this new school year, we will not be setting any homework for English or Maths. This will be the case while we are settling the children into school, as our priority is to ensure that we have happy and content in their environment and ready to learn.



Seesaw has proven to be an effective way for us to maintain contact with the children and will be used for homework later on in the term.

In English, children will receive homework to support tasks recently completed in class. English homework will usually be issued on Fridays in the autumn term. We would like this to be completed and uploaded to Seesaw by the following Thursday.

Your child will also be able to access spelling lists on Seesaw, that should be learnt weekly. Ideas for ways to learn these spellings will be uploaded in addition to the actual lists. All children should spend an additional 20 minutes per week on these spelling tasks.

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.

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 - about twenty minutes per day. This daily reading should be recorded in planners. A photograph of the planner, showing the daily reading, should be uploaded to seesaw by Monday. In this way, teachers can still monitor the children's reading. We still believe it is a positive and beneficial exercise for children to read aloud to parents/ grandparents/ older siblings 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.

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 or phone call, if you have any questions or queries.

Keep safe and well,

We thank you for your continuous support and encouragement.

Helen Day, Ashley Stewart, Jo Jones, Lucy Potts, Barbara Chadwick, Ian Coulson, Carolyn Carney and Julie Duffy. (UKS2 team).