

# LKS2 Newsletter

## Autumn 2022



Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

We hope you have all had a great, relaxing summer break. The LKS2 team are excited to welcome 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 3 - Miss Cork

Year 3/4 - Mr Cunha

Year 4 - Mr Sutton

Teaching assistants - Mrs Carney and Mrs Cawley

### Our Curriculum this term.

**English** - This half term the children will be focusing their writing and reading around our topic on Scavengers and Tribal tales. As writers we will discuss and produce a variety of different written styles, including narrative texts building settings, characters and plots, non-narrative texts linked to our topic work, and they will write and perform poetry. As a class we will read, share and examine, the text, Wild Way Home by Sophie Kirtley. Grammar, punctuation, and spelling will continue to be an important aspect of all pieces of work.

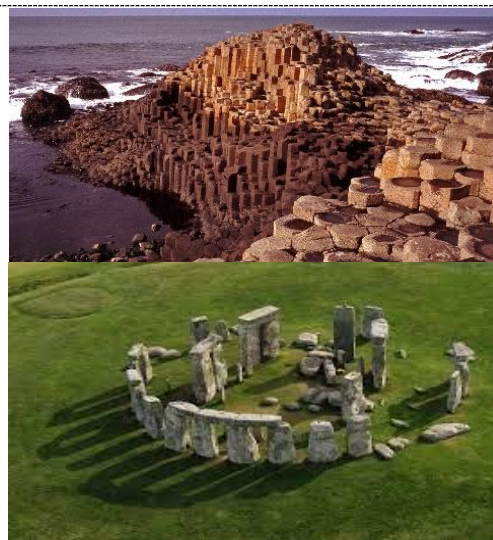


**Maths** - We will continue to follow the sequence within our maths mastery programme, Power Maths. Power Maths is a whole class mastery programme designed to spark curiosity and excitement and help teachers nurture confidence in maths. At the heart of Power Maths is the belief that all children can 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** - Our topics this term are: 'Rocks and Soils' and 'Light'. We will compare and group rocks, based on their properties and appearance, looking at how they are formed and link this to fossils. We will also look at dark and light, how light is needed to see and is reflected off a surface. In addition, we will look at how shadows are formed, how they change and the benefits and dangers of sunlight.

**Geography** - We will look at the UK and identify old settlements on a map, locating key features of the UK countries, counties, cities, and waters. We will identify the iconic human and physical features which make up the United Kingdom and develop our map skills in locating these places. We will create topographical maps in groups and will develop an awareness of distance, direction, and weather. We will also learn about how key places in Britain have changed over time.

**History** - We will be studying the key events of the Stone Age to find out what humans needed for survival. What changes happened during the different periods of the Stone Age and what evidence of the past has been discovered by archaeologists.



**Art & DT** - We will be exploring charcoal as a medium and compare artist's techniques. We will think about how Stone Age people would express themselves through mark making and cave paintings. In DT, we will be designing our own pouch to help the Stone Age gatherers collect and store berries using an animal pattern. We will be using our sewing, measuring, cutting and problem-solving skills to design, create and evaluate our pouch.

**RE** - Judaism will be our focus religion. We will study the beliefs and practices of the Jewish community. We will also study the Christian belief centred around the incarnation and study the Christmas Story.

**ICT** - After revising the importance of E-Safety, we will learn about networks and how the internet functions. We will then use our coding skills to create an animation in Scratch related to our History and Science units.

**MFL** - We will look at languages of the World and understand how English has been, and continues to be, influenced by other languages.

Our topic in French is 'All about Me'. We will listen to and learn to understand simple instructions in French. Name parts of the body and clothing and identify colours. We will use bilingual dictionaries and increase our understanding of word classes and other grammatical features of the language. The topic will include opportunities for using songs, stories, art and drama.



**Music** - Year 4 will be focussing on pulse and rhythm during our unit based on the Stone Age. We will develop and notate rhythmic patterns, compose and perform music using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Year 3 will be learning to play the glockenspiel in our lessons. This term we will be focussing on technique, finding our way around a keyboard, playing rhythms and learning to read simple rhythms on stave notation using F A C E.

During Active Listening Assemblies, we will listen to high quality music from different traditions, develop an understanding of the history of Music, including the great composers and musicians.

#### **Music Taster Evening**

A meeting will be held in school with the peripatetic music. This is the ideal opportunity to meet the teachers and listen to the instruments available on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**PSHE** - We will be learning about why rules are important in our school, home and society and how it is vital that we follow the rules. We will move on to think about what rights we have and why there are specific rights for children and the protected characteristics. Through discussion, we will talk about what conflicting rights are and how we can find resolutions.

An exciting new initiative



This year, we are introducing 'My Happy Minds' which is a complete mental and emotional wellbeing programme for Primary Schools. 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.

Tuesday	Outdoor games	Year 3/4 and Year 4
Wednesday	Outdoor games	Year 3
Friday	Indoor PE	All classes



For games the children will be focussing on Hockey and Netball skills this term. During our Indoor PE sessions will be looking at some of the fundamentals to physical activity such as balancing, running, jumping, hopping and skipping before moving on to dance.

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.

### Upcoming events to look out for - more details to follow

- Musical Instrument 'Taster Session'
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September - European Days of Languages
- Harvest Festival
- Parents' Evening



### 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. For English/topic, children will receive homework via Google Classroom to support tasks completed in class. They 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. 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.

### **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 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.

Rosie Cork, Michael Cunha, Andy Sutton, Carolyn Carney and Vicky Cawley (LKS2 team)