



Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas with your friends and families and are looking forward to the new term ahead! Below you will find some reminders and useful information to support your child throughout this term. We do try to stick to these weekly routines whenever possible and will always notify you if there are any changes to the schedule.

Curriculum:

During our Maths lessons we will begin by continuing our work on multiplication and division. The children will look into using a formal written method when multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers and then progressing onto dividing 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. Then we will move on to length and perimeter, where we will look at equivalent lengths, comparing lengths etc. In our English lessons we will be looking at the book *The Lion and the unicorn*. The children will complete several extended pieces of writing related to this book including stories, letters and diary entries. Our history lessons this term are based around the enquiry question 'Why was RAF Burtonwood Important to Warrington?' In this unit, the children will about the impact of WW2 on Warrington and a study of RAF Burtonwood and the impact the airbase had. Our geography lessons will focus around the enquiry question 'How has Warrington changed over time?' In this topic, the children will focus on our local area linked to their learning in History and how the Burtonwood airbase and wider areas of Warrington have changed overtime. Meanwhile in Science, children will begin the term learning about states of matter. They will compare and group materials into solids, liquids and gases and observe changes of state. You can access our curriculum overview on our class page on the school website if you would like to find out more about what we are learning this term.

Reading:

- ✚ Children are encouraged to read at home at least three times each week. Please note in the school planner when your child has read, the page number reached and any comment you may wish to make.
- ✚ School planners will be checked and signed by a member of the LKS2 team at least once a week. These form an important part of our home/ school communication so please write in them regularly.
- ✚ All children will take part in guided reading activities on a daily basis and be heard reading individually by a member of the LKS2 team at least once every two weeks. To help us achieve this please can you ensure your child has their reading book and diary with them in school every day.
- ✚ Please try to read with your child on a regular basis; research shows that even 10 minutes a day can have a significant impact on a child's academic progress. As well as listening to your child read, please do try and find the time to read and share books with them as well. We always encourage children to read a range of different materials and books, not just their school reading books. The local libraries are an excellent way to encourage and support reading for pleasure. These can also be noted in the reading section of the school planners.

Spellings:

- ✚ Spellings will be uploaded to Google classroom each week on a Friday. The children will then be tested on them the following Friday using Spelling Frame.
- ✚ Spellings will focus on either a particular spelling rule/pattern or will be taken from the statutory word list.
- ✚ Please try to help your child to look at these words, pointing out any particular patterns that will help them to remember them. Many children find learning spellings very challenging so this should be low key and a fun few minutes.

Times Tables:

- ✚ We will be having a big focus on times tables this year to ensure the children are prepared for the Multiplication Times tables Check they will sit at the end of Year 4. Times Tables Rockstars will continue again this year, to support the children's learning and the children will all have their own individual login, which can be found in the front of their school planners.
- ✚ As you will know the school has also invested in Numbots, an app produced by the makers of Time Tables Rockstars. This app supports children's quick recall of addition and subtraction facts and we are encouraging children to play this alongside Times Tables Rockstars.

Homework:

- ✚ Homework will be set on a Friday and this should be completed on LbQ by the following Wednesday. Please sign your child's planner once it's completed.
- ✚ Homework will be a Maths or an English activity, linked to the unit of work they are covering in class, so they should be able to complete the activity independently. However, if your child feels they need some extra support to complete the activity they should ask in school.

PE:

- ✚ The children will have PE on a Thursday and Friday this term. Following on from last year the children will be allowed to come into school wearing their PE kits on these days. Please ensure children are wearing the correct PE kit (house coloured top and black/blue shorts rather than just sports clothing).
- ✚ Please remember to tie back long hair and wear no jewellery for safety reasons.
- ✚ Swimming sessions will begin on Friday 9th January and will continue until the end of the school year. Children should come to school wearing their PE kits and bring with them a small bag containing a swimming costume, towel and/or goggles. If you are able to volunteer your time on a Friday morning to help us walk the children to the pool then we would be very grateful for your support. Please just speak to myself or a member of the LKS2 team for more information.

If there are ever any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch, either by popping in or telephoning. The support you give is essential for your child's progress and the closer we can work together the better it will be for them. If you are on X (Twitter), please follow Elm Tree class to see regular updates.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Miss Hewitson