

Lower Key Stage 2 Autumn 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn Term of 2025! Our Lower KS2 teaching team is Mr Lewis (Gatcombe) and Mrs Baxter (Coopers) in Year 4 with Mrs Soughton (Coker) and Miss Swinson (Kingston) in Year 3. The TA team for this year is made up of Mrs Brittain (mainly Gatcombe), Mrs Brister (mainly Coopers), Mrs Robson (mainly Kingston) and Mrs Samways (mainly Coker). There are also other adults working with specific children.

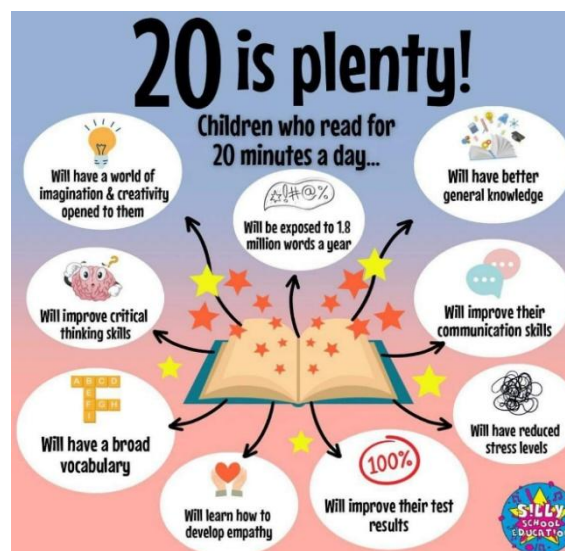
During key stage planning time on a Thursday afternoon, the classes will be covered by Mrs Brittain (Gatcombe), Mrs Brister (Coopers), Mrs Samways (Coker) and Mrs Aplin (Kingston). Mr Ashdown will also take Gatcombe class on a Wednesday morning covering for Mr Lewis who is on Key Stage and Pupil Premium management time.

Please see below for some notices regarding our learning this term. If you have any questions, please do send your class teacher a message via Class Dojo or catch us at the end of the day.

Mr Lewis, Mrs Baxter, Mrs Soughton and Miss Swinson

Reading and Times Tables Expectations

All children are expected to read at home at least five times per week. Their Reading Records need to be signed on each occasion - these will be checked weekly. Children have the opportunity to read in an 'open to all' reading club each morning break time and at both breakfast and after school club. These all count towards those five weekly occasions as the child chooses to do this. All children will be given a reading book at school at an appropriate level for their ability, but they are welcome to read any book of their choosing at home. We also use our school library to supplement this. Some children will have a specialist phonics book (has 7+ in the top corner) that relate to their phonics sessions.



The children are also expected to practise their times tables at home for approximately 20 minutes each week. Times tables knowledge is vital in Lower Key Stage 2 as all children will take part in the Multiplication Tables Check in Year 4 - a nationwide government times tables assessment that takes place in the Spring term. By this point, the children are expected to know all the times tables facts up to 12 x 12. To be on track to achieve this, all children are expected to know their x2, x5, 10, x3, x4 and x8 times tables by the end of Year 3, whilst learning the rest in Year 4. Research shows that 21 minutes is the magic number to practise at home per week to help facts stick – this is just 3 minutes per day! If your child does not have internet access at home, please let your class teacher know so that we can arrange an alternative activity. All children will have access to TT Rockstars and this will be tracked and certificates awarded.

PE

Please see below for each class PE days. This can sometimes change and will be communicated via Dojo. PE kits are worn for the day and need to be a **white shirt and plain dark shorts/trousers / leggings with school jumper/cardigan**. Long hair must be tied up and earrings must be removed on both PE days for Health & Safety. During the first half of Autumn Term, we will be swimming.

	Normal PE	Swimming
COKER & KINGSTON	Friday	Monday
GATCOMBE & COOPERS	Tuesday	Friday

Personal Belongings

We would be very grateful if you could spend some time labelling/rechecking your child's belongings with their full name, especially drinks bottles, jumpers and coats. We regularly end up with a mountain of lost property (mainly jumpers, cardigans and coats!) and it is very difficult to return unnamed items to the correct children. Please check this is still clear on a weekly basis once going through the washing machine! Please also ensure that children have weather-appropriate clothing with them, especially a raincoat every day with our changeable weather!

Time Out

To ensure the best learning environment for all children, there will be a 'Time Out' club at breaktime each day. Children who demonstrate low-level poor behaviour choices may be asked to stay behind at 'Time Out' as a consequence, to spend some time considering making better choices. We will write in their Reading Record or dojo if your child has been sent to Time Out and keep a record in school too. Higher level behaviours will always be communicated to yourself either in person or via Dojo.

Curriculum

Subject	Autumn A	Autumn B
English Y3	Secret of Black Rock, My Strong Mind	The Library Lion, Christmas Dessert
English Y4	Iron Man, The Creature	BFG, Journey into the Wonderful World of Your Biomes
Maths	Place Value, Addition & Subtraction	Addition & Subtraction, Multiplication & Division
Science	Sound	Habitats and Classifying
History & Geography	Jurassic Coast (Geography)	Victorians (History)
Religious Education	Creation, Harvest	Incarnation
Music	Y3: Samba Y4: Charanga	Y3: Samba & Christmas Carols Y4: Charanga
SCARF	Me and My Relationships	Valuing Difference
PE	Swimming & Ball Games	Games
French	Instruments	Seasons
Computing	Online Safety & Purple Mash	Online Safety & Purple Mash
Art, DT & Engineering	Landscapes	Sew a Sampler

Sickness and Absence

Please ensure all absences are reported to the office – 01460 52686 and not via Dojo. Please remember any cases of sickness require 48 hours after the last bout before returning to school to help stop any spread. If you are unsure, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Spelling

We have daily phonics/spelling groups. Please see below for the Year 1 & 2 and Year 3 & 4 Statutory Spelling lists. These are all of the spellings that the children are expected to know by the end of Year 4. We spend time practising these at school but please also practise them at home whenever possible.

Reading

Please see below for some key questions you could ask your child while reading with them at home.

VIPERS	Questions to Ask <i>Fiction</i>	Questions to Ask <i>Non-Fiction</i>
V Vocabulary	- Talk about new words - Think of synonyms	- Explore new words in the glossary if there is one - Think of synonyms
I Infer	- Which characters does the author want us to like or dislike? - What is the mood of this story/chapter? - How did ____ feel when ____ happened? - Is ____ a nice character? What makes you think that?	- Why are some parts in bold/bigger/coloured print? - Does the author like the topic they are writing about?
P Predict	- What do you think will happen in the story? - What will happen next? - What might ____ do? - What advice would you give ____ in this situation? What would you do if you were ____?	- What is the topic of the book going to be? How do you know? - Tell me about the pictures - what do they tell you?
E Explain	- Why did ____ act in that way? - How did ____ react when ____ happened? - Why did ____ do ____? What would you do? - Do the characters remind you of anyone? Why? - Was this story happy/sad/exciting? - Is there a part of the story when the writer made you feel a bit worried/scared/excited? Why do you feel that way? - Why did the writer choose to use the word ____? What other words could	- What tells you that this is a non-fiction book? - Can you explain why some information is in a box, and some in a normal paragraph? - How are the pages different to a story book? - What makes a good title? Why? Look for rhyme and alliteration. - Which part did you find the most interesting? Why? - What are the labels used for on a picture?

	they have used? How might this have changed the meaning?	
R Retrieve	- Who is in the story? - What did ____ do? - Can you find the words which make you feel ____?	- Can you find me a fact about ____? - What have you learnt from this book?
S Summarise	- What happened next? - Did ____ happen before or after ____?	- Where might the index be? What does it do? - Where the contents page and what is its job? - What is a glossary?

New Curriculum Spelling Lists Years 1 and 2

the
a
do
to
today
of
said
says
your
they
be
he
me
she
we
no

come
some
one
once
ask
friend
school
put
are
were
was
is
his
has
I
you

go
so
by
my
here
there
where
love
push
pull
full
house
our
door
poor
find

mind
floor
because
kind
behind
whole
any
child
wild
most
both
children
climb
only
old
many

clothes
cold
gold
hold
told
every
great
break
steak
busy
people
pretty
beautiful
after
fast
last

past
father
class
water
again
grass
pass
plant
path
bath
hour
move
prove
half
money
improve

sugar
could
would
sure
eye
should
who
Mr
Mrs
parents
Christmas
everybody
even

Year 3 and 4 Statutory Spellings

accident	calendar	eight	guide	mention	possession	straight
accidentally	caught	eighth	heard	minute	possible	strange
actual	centre	enough	heart	natural	potatoes	strength
actually	century	exercise	height	naughty	pressure	suppose
address	certain	experience	history	notice	probably	surprise
although	circle	experiment	imagine	occasion	promise	therefore
answer	complete	extreme	increase	occasionally	purpose	though
appear	consider	famous	important	often	quarter	thought
arrive	continue	favourite	interest	opposite	question	through
believe	decide	February	island	ordinary	recent	various
bicycle	describe	forward	knowledge	particular	regular	weight
breath	different	forwards	learn	peculiar	reign	woman
breathe	difficult	fruit	length	perhaps	remember	women
build	disappear	grammar	library	popular	sentence	
busy	early	group	material	position	separate	
business	earth	guard	medicine	possess	special	