



Lower Key Stage 2 Newsletter



What a fantastic start to the new term. There have been a few changes in school, but you have helped make the start of the school year a real success, thank you. We have been really pleased to see the children coming back to school and they have quickly settled into the new routines.

Curriculum

For the first half term we will be implementing a recovery curriculum. We understand that every child will have had different experiences during lockdown so we will be focusing on developing their social and emotional skills. We will be using a range of high-quality texts to deliver this.

Book	Focus
While we cannot hug by Eoin McLaughlin	Looking at changes including new rules and routines. Time to discuss feelings related to coming back to school. Learning to connect with each other in new ways
Stanley's stick by John Hegley	Rediscovering/developing a joy of reading. Learning that we all come from different places Developing our imagination – a way to escape reality Engaging with others & working collaboratively
Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann	Developing our speaking and listening skills Similarities and differences – not judging others by their appearances Taking responsibility for own actions. Friendships and relationships Dealing with anxiety.
Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter	Empathy, caring and understanding – helping each other Change can be powerful Having gratitude for nature Not giving up – resilience Building self-esteem, having confidence to try new things
Drawn Together by Minh Le	Creating positive relationships Diversity within our communities Being different but equal Appreciation of others Finding common ground
Journey by Aaron Becker	Moving on Thinking about the future – what next?

Maths

We will be continuing to follow the White Rose scheme of learning, which includes covering areas of previous learning to ensure any gaps are addressed. At the end of Year 4 the children will undertake a statutory multiplication test, it is therefore important for all children to continue to learn and practice their times tables. A good way to do this is to use Times Table Rockstars, which your children all have access to (codes can be found at the front of your child's reading record). This will make up part of their weekly maths homework.

Reading

We will be changing books once a week but will send multiple books home. Books that are returned to school will be quarantined for 72 hours before being returned to our shelves.

If you have any books at home from last year, please can you return them so we can ensure we have a supply of books for all levels.

Your child will be coming home with a purple reading journal that should be filled in each week with what your child has read. Please can you comment when you listen to your child and make notes about words they struggle to read or don't understand? This will help greatly when reading in school.

Homework

Homework will be set on a Wednesday via Class Dojo. A homework book will be sent home, but this is to stay at home and be used for written work. This is a chance for your child to practice their handwriting and help improve the presentation of their work. All work should be returned as a photo on Class Dojo by the following Monday. Homework will begin Wednesday 23rd September

Spellings

Please bear with us while we make initial assessments of spellings to ensure the right words are assigned. We aim to have all spellings set by Friday 25th September and these will be sent home via Class Dojo to be tested the following week in school.

PE

We have PE on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit and that earrings have been removed. We will be participating in tennis and athletics lessons outside so kit will need to be suitable for the current weather conditions.

Belongings from home

We are minimising the movement of items between home and school so children will only need to bring to school their book bag, water bottle, coat, and lunchbox (if needed). Please support us by not sending in any other items including backpacks.

Snack

Children in Key Stage 2 may continue to bring a snack into school but to ensure this aligns with the expectations for Key Stage 1 this may only be fresh or dried fruit or vegetables. Children will not be permitted to eat items that do not fit this description, so please do not send other snacks into school to avoid any disappointment. Any snacks other than fruit or vegetables that the children bring into school will be sent home again.

This is a change to previous expectations, so please ensure you and your child are familiar with the new rules regarding snacks. These changes have been made to promote healthy eating and equality across the school

Clothes

Please can you make sure that all belongings are named – we have already had a few new jumpers and cardigans without names that we have not been able to return to their owners or which have disappeared.

Lower Key Stage 2 Team

Pumas

Mrs Riggall and Mrs Ayling

Lions

Mr Herring, Phase Leader

Tigers

Mrs Metcalf