



Upper Key Stage 2 Newsletter



Thank you for all your support to help us have a successful start to the school year. It has been great to see all the children back at school and ready to learn.

Curriculum

For the first half term, we will be implementing a whole school 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 a joy of reading. Learning we all come from different places Developing imagination – a way to escape reality Engaging with others & working collaboratively
Leaf by Sandra Dieckmann	Speaking and listening Similarities and differences – not judging others by their appearances Taking responsibility for own actions. Friendships and relationships Dealing with anxiety.
Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted a Million Trees by F Prevott	Reigniting a love for reading. Empathising, caring, and understanding each other Understanding other cultures. To begin to develop an understanding around black lives matter Developing skills in Resilience and perseverance Developing skills in gratitude, wellbeing, and collaboration
Journey by Aaron Becker	Moving on Thinking about the future – what next?

In Owls and Hawks, we will gradually reintroduce our guided reading, spelling and grammar when we feel the time is right and the children are ready to move on.

Reading and the library.

In KS2, there are two bubbles which need to have access to the KS2 library. One bubble uses it on a Monday, and the other bubble uses it on a Thursday. This is to ensure that there is no crossover and that there is the time needed to keep the area COVID safe. To ensure the children have enough to read, they have been allowed to take out up to three books each week and then exchange them if needed in the following week.

We would ask you to please record at least 4 times a week in their reading diary to show that your child has read for 15 mins at home. If your child struggles with reading, it would really help if you heard them read each night, and we will hear them each day at school. This would certainly help most of the children catch up and fill any gaps they may have.

Y5/6 Homework

Homework will be set on a Thursday and is expected to be returned by the following Tuesday. It will come home in a homework book, which we would like them to cover fully to help protect it until it is full.

Each week, they will have Maths homework, Literacy/Topic homework, spellings from their Year group list and possibly handwriting for those who need extra practice.

Homework will be given out from next week (Thursday 24th September) and we would appreciate your support with this.

PE

We have PE on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit and that earrings have been removed at home if they are not able to remove them themselves before the lesson. We will be participating in hockey and athletics lessons outside in the afternoon sessions 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

For breaktime each day, your child is permitted to be in a fresh or dried fruit or vegetable snack only.

Clothes

The children are all looking very smart in their new jumpers but we would ask you to make sure that all jumpers and coats are named so we can ensure they get back to your child if they are left somewhere once removed.

Class Dojo

We are continuing to use Class Dojo to get reminders and messages to parents and hope you continue to use it to send messages to your child's teacher when needed. We have found it an effective method of communication, along with the reading diary and parent mail.

Once again, we appreciate your support as we get used to the new rules and routines. We look forward to working with you over this academic year and will continue to keep you informed of any changes.

The Year 5/6 team