

Lower Key Stage Two

Autumn Term 1 Newsletter 2018



Welcome Back!

Who is who in Lower Key Stage Two?

Year 3

Brambles

Mrs Poulter - Teacher

Dragonflies

Mrs Cook - Teacher (Mon & Tues)

Mrs O'Brien - Teacher (Weds, Thurs & Fri)

Year 3 Cover Teachers

Mrs Hill - RE/French Teacher

Mrs Hackett - RE/Music Teacher

Year 3 Teaching Assistants

Miss Baynes

Miss Forsey

Mr Leishman

Year 4

Bumblebees

Miss Lannagan - Teacher

Cedars

Mrs Millard - Teacher (Mon, Tues & Weds)

Mr Rae - Teacher (Thurs & Fri)

Year 4 Cover Teachers

Mrs Hill - RE/French Teacher

Mrs Hackett - RE/Music Teacher

Year 4 Teaching Assistants

Mrs Ward

Miss Hughes

Mr Rae - Year 3 & 4 Area Leader

For any questions or queries, please contact your
child's class teacher in the first instance.

How to support your child's reading at home

At this age, it is important that your child is frequently accessing a range of reading material. Every child will visit the school library once a week, where they should be choosing an interesting book to bring home and enjoy. An adult can also read to the child as this provides a model of good reading and encourages the child to enjoy the experience of reading.

Children will also be expected to bring home a reading book closely matched to their reading ability. Children bringing home books coloured pink - lime will have a reading record book. Research shows the importance of parents listening to children read regularly. Each time you listen to your child read, please acknowledge this in their reading record book. Once your child has finished their book, they will then be able to choose a new book to bring home. Children bringing home orange spot books and above will not be given a reading record book but will need to take responsibility for changing their book once they have finished it. Class teachers will not be writing in these records but will look to ensure that your child is reading regularly.

Please be aware that most children are expected to be reading at orange spot by the **end of year 4**. Regular reading can and does help your child to move through the book bands at a steady rate. However, please also remember that your child will not move through the book bands as frequently as they may have done in Key Stage One as the language becomes much more advanced and there is more of a focus on developing comprehension skills.

Reading books should be changed regularly by the children, who can do so at the beginning of the day or just before lunchtime. Please inform your class teacher if your child does not change their book regularly so that we can encourage them to do so. **It is your child's responsibility to change their own reading book.**

Our Creative Curriculum...

Dinosaurs!

Science

Our young scientists will be studying rocks and fossils, learning the associated scientific vocabulary and improving our enquiry skills. We will carry out some investigations and observations to find out more about this field of science.

Humanities

Our topic this half term is Dinosaurs! We will be learning about the different features of dinosaurs as well as the different eras of the dinosaur age. We will be developing our research and presentation skills as part of our learning, whilst making use of a range of sources of information to support our work.

Computing

Year 3 will be familiarising themselves with the school laptops by developing key skills such as typing and using a network.

Year 4 will be programming the pro-bots; learning to write a program and debug problems.

DT

For our design work, we will be learning about pneumatic contraptions before designing our very own moving dinosaur! We will collaborate with others to develop our construction skills as well as carrying out on-going evaluations of our work.

French

Year 3 will be beginning to learn French greetings, numbers and family members.

Year 4 will be continuing to build on their French by looking at the world around them.

PSHE

We will be engaging in discussions about personal safety as the nights draw in and keeping healthy, plus contextual reflections on our values.

R.E.

Year 3 will be learning all about the practices of the Hinduism faith including learning about the festival of Diwali. Year 4 will learn all about Judaism.

Music

In Year 3, we will be focusing on our composition and beat building up to a final performance. In Year 4, we will be learning to play the boomwhackers as a whole class and performing a final piece.

P.E.

We will be focussing on our fitness in 'Boot Camp' to increase our stamina and strength. We will also be refining techniques for a range of sports including basketball, cricket and tennis. We will compete against others in game situations.

Fabulous Finish

Join us from 2.15pm on Wednesday 24th October for our Fabulous Finish. We will be displaying some of our dinosaur topic creations whilst you enjoy icing and eating our delicious dinosaur cookies!

Our Creative Curriculum...

English

In Year 3, we will be reading a range of stories about dinosaurs and using their structures to plan and write our own stories. We will learn how to change the setting, characters and plot and group related ideas into paragraphs. We will learn how to use a range of adverbs and conjunctions to express time, cause and place - For example: before, after, while, therefore, because, round the corner and in the distance.

Year 4 will be writing stories based around the discovery of something unusual. The children will be developing key skills including the use of fronted adverbials and direct speech to create their very own discovery story.

Maths

In Maths, we will be securing our understanding of number and calculation. Year 3 and 4 will be focussing on their understanding of place value to identify the value of numbers.

We will then secure our mental addition and subtraction skills before moving onto using written strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems.

We will continually practise our multiplication and division facts to recall these fluently.

Spelling

The National Curriculum sets out a list of statutory spellings that children should learn in each key stage, as well as a list of spelling patterns children should know and be able to use in their writing.

Each week, your child will work on a different spelling pattern in school and be taught the related rule. For each spelling pattern, there are a set of spellings which follow these rules. Every week your child will be sent home with the relevant spelling list that they are working on with in school.

Please note that the children **will not** be tested weekly on the spellings that are sent home.

Homework

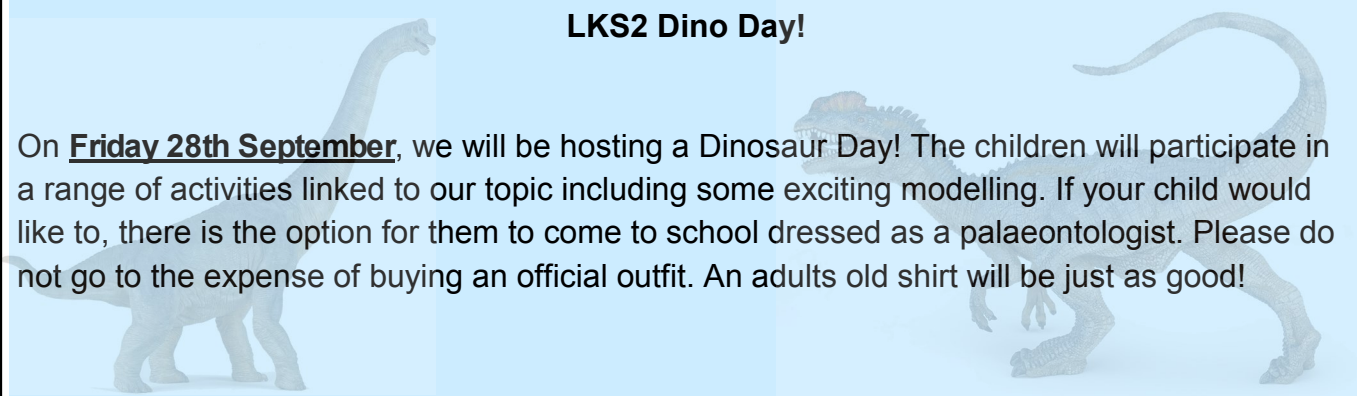
Regular homework tasks are set for your child to consolidate their learning in class. Our homework expectations are:

- ⇒ **Daily reading** with an adult.
- ⇒ Big Talk discussion to support English (This will be sent out by letter at the beginning of a new unit)
- ⇒ Spelling and SPaG practice (www.spag.com)
- ⇒ My Maths / times tables practice (www.mymaths.co.uk)

Please support your child's homework which will aid their progress in school. Please see your child's class teacher to discuss homework tasks or any concerns you may have about your child's ability to complete their homework.

LKS2 Dino Day!

On **Friday 28th September**, we will be hosting a Dinosaur Day! The children will participate in a range of activities linked to our topic including some exciting modelling. If your child would like to, there is the option for them to come to school dressed as a palaeontologist. Please do not go to the expense of buying an official outfit. An adult's old shirt will be just as good!



Dates for your diaries...

September: *Our value is: Resilience*

Tuesday 4th September - Children return to school

Friday 28th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 28th September - LKS2 Dino Day!

October: *Our value is: Friendship*

Friday 12th October - Individual photographs

Thursday 18th October - Visit to the Natural History Museum

Wednesday 24th October - Fabulous Finishes

Thursday 25th October - Reward Afternoon & Head teacher Treat

Please check the school website regularly for updated events.

**Did you know, you can also subscribe to the school calendar?
Just click on the 'calendar' tab on the school website.**

It would be helpful if...

- ◆ All your child's belongings are named. This doesn't need to be fancy - we throw lots of unnamed lost property away every half term!
- ◆ Your child brings in an old shirt (named) to use for art activities.
- ◆ At the beginning of the week, your child brings in their PE kit and takes it home again for a wash.
- ◆ Snacks are not kept in lunchboxes so that your child can put them in the classroom ready for break.
- ◆ You encourage independence by saying goodbye to your child at the door and allowing them to organise themselves.

School Uniform

All children are expected to be wearing their full school uniform every day. This includes their PE kit. Please make sure you have adhered to the school uniform policy. Reminders will be sent should a child not have the correct uniform. If this persists, you will be contacted by your child's class teacher and Key Stage Leader. Thank you for your cooperation!

Please remember...

A drink of water will help your child to maintain focus in the classroom! During lessons, children can take a drink from their water bottles. Please ensure that this is named and available daily for your child. It need not be an expensive contraption, a refillable plastic bottle is just perfect!



Break time Snacks **must be** either fruit, vegetables of hard cheese. Children will not be permitted to take any other snack onto the playground.



A full school PE kit must be kept in school throughout the week. This includes a change of footwear for outdoor sports.

Your child's usual PE days are:

Year 3: Tuesday & Friday

Year 4: Thursday & Friday

Collecting your Child from School



The classroom doors will be opened at 3.05pm each day for the children to be dismissed.

Please be patient as the children are matched up to their adults; particularly whilst we get to know everyone's faces. Younger siblings should not be sent to the doors as they then block others from leaving. Year 4 children are permitted to walk to meet their parents, providing we have had permission from you. Please remember that if someone else is going to be collecting your child, we need to know in advance. Please understand that your child's safety is our first priority! Thank you.