



Lower Key Stage 2 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2017

Welcome Back

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. For families new to school, our newsletters provide news and information about school events in the coming term.

Our school website, parents app and Twitter feed also provide up to date information.

It has been lovely welcoming all the children back to school after their summer holidays, they all look very smart in their new school uniform.

Thank you for remembering the correct uniform and appropriate shoes for the children.

The lower key stage 2 team consists of Mrs Burns and Miss Daly teaching Year 4. Miss Gallagher and Mrs Dunn teach in Year 3, with Miss Hughes and Mrs Thomas work in Year 3/4. We would also like to welcome Mrs Garrity to our team.

We are all working hard together to make our area an exciting, fun learning environment, where everyone is valued. The children started the year by getting to know their new spaces, they created and shared class rules, got to know their new classrooms and let's not forget the enjoyment of opening brand new exercise books to do their very first piece of writing!

Information

Year three have all settled into Lower key Stage two really well, and are looking forward to a busy year ahead.

We would like to welcome our new sports coach, Amy, who will be teaching PE on Monday afternoons.

The children will also take part in lessons on Wednesdays with Miss Boyd, our specialist dance teacher.

There are often other opportunities for PE activities during the week so we recommend your child brings their kit in every Monday and leave it in school for the week to take home on Fridays.

Year 3 will also be completing a 12 week Military School Programme.

They will enjoy team building, first aid and Modern British Values sessions.



**Our Lady Immaculate
Catholic Primary
School**

As the new school term begins we will continue our quest to improve whole school attendance.

Our Attendance Learning Mentors will continue to monitor both attendance and punctuality, ringing families if your child is absent without a reason, inviting parents into school if your child's attendance or punctuality is poor. As a school we will continue to give half termly rewards for excellent attendance and excellent punctuality.

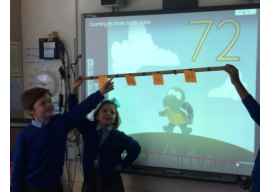
We also give out certificates for the best attendance in KS2 each week and each child with 100% attendance goes into a weekly draw for a gift card.

We hope you can help us to make this year our best attendance year ever!

Maths

The children in both year groups will focus on place value, addition and subtraction and arithmetic skills. This will reinforce other areas of the maths curriculum. Please could you encourage your child to practise their times tables, year 3 will be focusing on 4 and 8 times tables and year 4 need to know all times tables by the end of the year. We have also started to use maths homework books, each week they will focus on one page relevant to their learning that week.

Maths homework will be sent home regularly. The children may find the some activities challenging so we encourage them to seek support from family members.



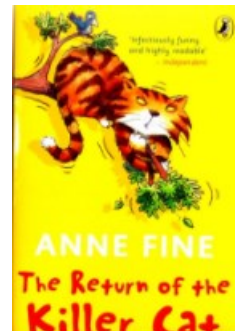
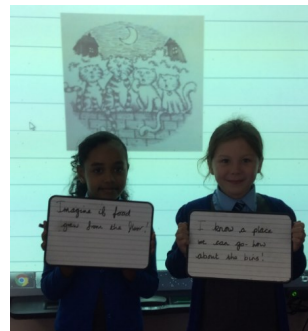
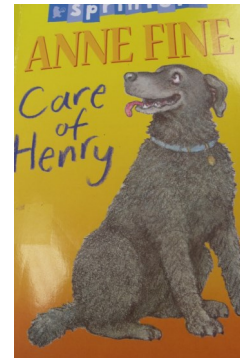
English

Year 3 and 4 will explore the following genres :
Stories with familiar settings, reports, poetry, and myths

We submerge the children in these genres by using texts, reading materials and visual resources through shared, guided and reading for pleasure activities, We write cold, amber and hot tasks as well as any planned incidental writing opportunities such as letters, post cards, newspaper articles and recounts etc.

By doing this the children get the opportunity to really immerse themselves in their writing and know how to improve and edit it through assessment for learning opportunities.

Please see our website for examples of some of this writing.



Spellings

Across the school we will continue to teach teaching spelling through exploring their rules and conventions through games and investigations. The children will get weekly spellings but rather than learn them as a list we will make suggestions for them to learn them in a fun way which will hopefully be transferred to their writing across the curriculum .

Computing

This term we will be having our lessons in the Media Suite and all lessons will involve interactive computing on a variety of media. We will be looking at:

1. Coding using Scratch.
2. Research facts about Mark Zuckerberg using search engines). We will make a film asking if we can interview him using Skype.
3. Bookmarking a web page by creating a favourite, Bookmarking a web page so it can be easily viewed at a later date.
4. Top 10 hints to make us experts on searching on Google for example using speech marks and other such symbols to further refine our searching.
5. Copying text from an internet page to an office document.
6. Copying images from an internet page.

Spanish

Once again we are very lucky to be working alongside our Spanish Tutor, Gina, who comes into school on Tuesday to do some very interactive Spanish lessons with the children. Ask your child to count or sing a song in Spanish-You'll be amazed !



Music

We have been very fortunate this year to work alongside two specialist music teachers.

The Year 4 children, along with their teachers, will be learning to play Spanish Guitar on a Monday morning. The children will eventually be able to take their guitars home to practise.

Year 3 will be working with Kate from Resonate at Notre Dame.



Winmarleigh PGL

With our Year 3 trip to PGL fast approaching, we would like to meet as many parents as possible to give you some additional information to help prepare for this exciting residential weekend. **The final PGL meeting will take place on Wednesday 4th October 2017 at 3.30pm**

It will be a lovely opportunity for teachers to get to know their new classes in a fun, less formal way. We hope as many children as possible come along with us for a fantastic couple of days.



Topic and Science

We have already started this half terms topic—*Why do so many people go to the Mediterranean for their holidays?* All the adults in school are impressed with the children's knowledge so far. Through this topic we will explore Mediterranean countries and immerse ourselves in food, music and art work from the Mediterranean.

In science, we will be looking at exploring plants (We were very impressed when one of the children explained that plants give us oxygen!) and light and dark.

The series of lessons we use, focus on answering a question in each lesson and provides the children with a fun and practical way to learn.



Come and See

We will continue the Come and See RE curriculum this term. We have already started to teach our first topic Homes and Families looking at what makes a house a home.

We will then move onto Promises and Visitors as well as looking at another faith.

The Year 4 will begin the 'With You Always' programme this year to prepare for receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time.

Macmillan Cancer Afternoon Tea

This year we are proud to be supporting the Macmillan charity again and will be holding an Afternoon Tea on Friday 29th September 2017 at 2.30pm in the canteen. This event is a great way to catch up with friends and support an amazing cause. This event in the past has been very well supported and we look forward to seeing you there!



We hope that your child enjoys the school year in both an academic and social sense. We will be working extremely hard to help your child achieve their maximum potential throughout the year. We are very much looking forward to working alongside yourselves as a partnership in improving the children's skills across all areas of the curriculum. It is vital that the children are working hard outside of school, this means the children practising their times tables, calculation skills, spellings, writing and reading skills. We truly believe that the extra work they do at home makes all the difference. If you would like to speak to us or ask any further questions don't hesitate to pop to the office and make an appointment or talk to us when the children have gone home.

Apps to try

- Love to count 2 - times tables and division
- Move the turtle - programming for kids
- Squeebles times table
- Squeebles spellings
- Any Mr Thorne apps - They focus on grammar, spellings and phonics, making them fun.

If you have any suggestions of other Apps, please let us know .

Please can the children read at home at least five to seven times a week, this will not only improve their reading but will encourage them to be lifetime learners, improving their understanding and knowledge of the world.

Log onto our website for latest news and information about the school.

www.oliprimaryschool.co.uk



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