



Lower Key Stage 2

Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 2016



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, Twitter feed and parent app 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, Miss Gallagher, Mrs Coulson, Miss Daly, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Thomas. We are all working hard together to make our area an exciting, fun learning environment, where everyone is valued. The children excitedly 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 work!

Information

Year 3 have all settled into Lower Key Stage 2 really well, and are looking forward to a busy year ahead. At break times all children are provided with a healthy snack which is funded by school and we recommend that all children bring a small bottle of water to school each day.

We would like to welcome our new sports coach, Kirsty, who will be teaching PE on Tuesday mornings. The children will also take part in lessons on Wednesdays with Miss Boyd, our specialist dance teacher. This term, year three are also participating in UK Military school on Fridays. 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.



Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School

As the new school term begins we will continue our quest to improve whole school attendance. Our Attendance Mentor 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 termly rewards for full attendance and excellent punctuality. There are also some new, exciting opportunities for your child to earn some fantastic prizes. During our celebration assemblies, certificates for the best attendance in KS2 each week are announced 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

This term the children in both year groups will focus on

- Place value
- Calculation,
- Arithmetic

Throughout the year, problem solving will enable the children to master their learning, use key vocabulary and allow them to explain their reasoning. This will reinforce other areas of the maths curriculum.

Please could you encourage your child to practise their times tables and complete maths homework.

Maths homework will be sent home regularly. To support this the children could play dice games, card games and practise adding and finding change with money.



English

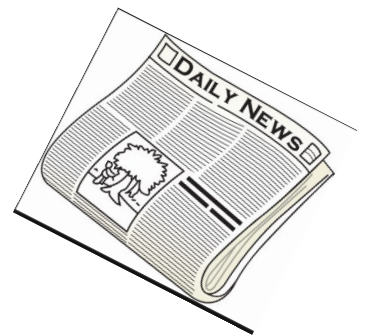
Oliver Jeffries



Our Lower Key Stage two focus for autumn will be

- Famous authors ,
- Newspapers,
- Playscripts

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, reports and recounts etc. We apply our learning across the curriculum and make links where we can. 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 and quality marking, together with 'PIT 'STOP'.



Spellings



Across the school we will continue to teach teaching spelling by exploring their rules and conventions through games and investigations. The children will get weekly spellings sent home from the year three/four statutory word list. 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.

Reading for Pleasure

As part of encouraging children to read for pleasure, we are asking the children to bring their own books or magazines into school to read during "RFP". In Lower Key Stage 2 this will be every Thursday and children can bring in whatever they like to read e.g. magazines, cookery books, comics etc. It is also an opportunity for parents and carers to come along to our library between 8.55 and 9.15 to choose a story and share it with their child. We will be beginning this on Thursday 6th October, we look forward to seeing you there.



Spanish

Once again we are very lucky to be working alongside our Spanish Tutor, Ava, who comes into school on Tuesdays 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 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 on Wednesdays.

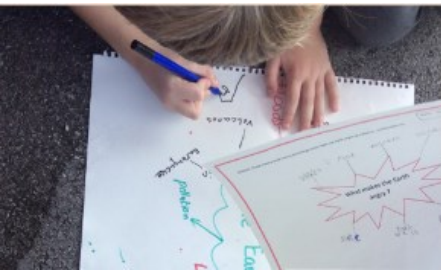


Winmarleigh PGL

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.

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. Please see your child's teacher for additional information.

Topic and Science



We have already started this half terms topic—'What makes the earth angry?' All the adults in school are impressed with the children's knowledge so far.

Through this topic we will explore using the correct geographical words to describe a place and the things that happen there, identify the key features of a place using a map, describe how volcanoes are created, describe how earthquakes are created, describe how volcanoes have an impact on people's life, describe what a place is like using photographs, locate and name some of the world's most famous volcanoes and describe the weather in different parts of the world.

In science, we will be investigating 'states of matter', looking at particle structure and what happens to states when they change.

The new 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. We can already tell they are enjoying this new way of learning.



Come and See

We will continue the Come and See RE curriculum this term. We have already started to teach our first topic people, looking at important people in our life and Jesus' family. The Year 4 will begin the With You Always programme this year to prepare for their confirmations.

Speaking and Listening skills

To improve oracy skills across school, we use Pie Corbett and Alan Pete strategies and concentrate on 3 simple rules:

1. Speaking in full sentences (no one word answers)
2. Answering the question they have been asked
3. Make sure it sounds right (is it grammatically correct)



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. Don't forget we have homework club on Thursday nights for children until 4:30. 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

IDL

Mathletics

Love to count 2: times tables and division

Squeebles times table and Squeebles spellings

Any Mr Thorne apps — They focus on grammar, spellings and phonics, making them fun.

Please check out suggestions on our school website for other useful websites and apps.

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



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www.oliprimaryschool.co.uk
