



Lower Key Stage 2 Curriculum Newsletter Spring Term 2017

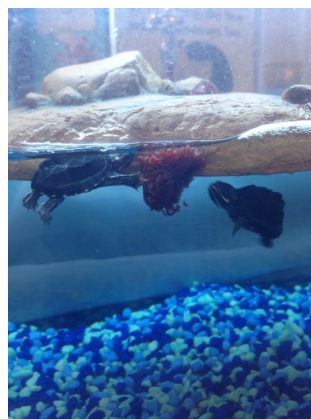
Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017. Don't forget to keep up to date with what we do by checking our school website: www.oliprimary.co.uk, click the 'children' tab, then 'key stages', 'lower key stage two' and finally 'Our spring news'. Sounds complicated but it's easy (Honest!) As some of you may be aware, Mrs Burns unfortunately fell ill over the Christmas period. She is currently recovering at home and we look forward to her return.

We would like to welcome Mrs Furness, who is teaching Mrs Burns' class until she returns, and also welcome Miss Millington who is a student teacher in Mrs Coulson's class.

Attendance

Our new attendance initiative has had a good impact on the children's attendance so far, with Miss Gallagher's class winning best attendance for the first half term and Mrs Coulson's class winning the second half term. Each week the class attendance percentage is turned into money (e.g. 97% = £9.70) and the class with the most money in the pot at the end of the half term wins. The children then decide how they would like this money to be spent. Miss Gallagher's class chose to buy a class pet and have bought 2 turtles called Tilly and Tim. Mrs Coulson's class are in the process of deciding what to spend their money on. As you can see, we have fantastic attendance and punctuality incentives, so please ensure your child comes to school each day so they don't miss out on valuable learning opportunities.



Sports Information

All children in Lower Key Stage Two have the opportunity to go swimming this half term on Thursdays. The children are taught by qualified swimming instructors who make sure that they progress with their swimming skills and have fun! Children need to bring a swimming cap and a healthy snack and drink. The children also take part in PE 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.

**Our Lady
Immaculate
Catholic Primary
School**

Home Activities

- ☺ Support and encourage your Childs home reading
- ☺ Ensure homework is completed
- ☺ Talk to your child about what they are learning in school
- ☺ Visit school website and suggested websites, Apps and activities

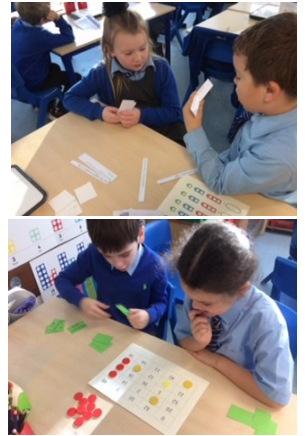
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Maths

This term the children in both year groups will continue to reinforce written calculation, number and mental arithmetic skills. Year three have been concentrating on multiplication and division and we will be moving on to fractions and measure. Year four are continuing to work on written methods for multiplication and division and will also look at fractions, time, decimals and money.

We will continue to work on reasoning and problem solving skills throughout each of these areas of maths. We will also continue to focus on our use of arithmetic strategies for all operations and increasing our recall of times tables and relevant division facts with speed and accuracy.



Literacy

This term, we will look at the following genres:

- Plays (continued from autumn term)
- Stories with historical settings, linking to the Stone Age
- Explanation Texts
- Information—Advertisements

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.



Topic and Science

This term we will be learning all about a particularly interesting time in our history: *The Stone Age*. Throughout this topic, we will look at Stone Age art, how they lived, what they ate and compare differences from the past with today. To link with our topic, we are currently in the process of planning a trip to The World Museum. More details will follow soon.

In science, we have begun to learn all about Animals including Humans. The children have already completed a memorable experiment about the digestive system and will go on to learn more about the types and functions of teeth, tooth decay and food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey. Throughout our science lessons, the children will be able to generate questions and use scientific evidence through investigations in order to answer them. We will also explore Electricity and Sound later in the term.



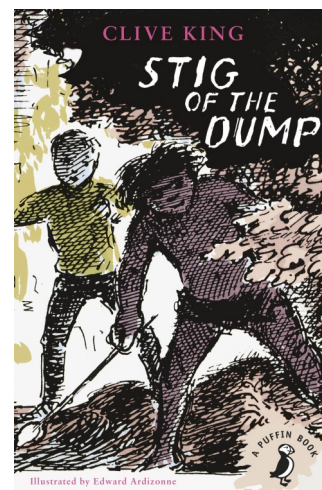
Reading Hour

Reading is an important life skill. Therefore, we have introduced to our timetable an hour dedicated to reading every day. Children will have the opportunity to work within a reciprocal reading group, to discuss and immerse themselves in a selection of genres. Children will also learn to develop higher order questioning skills, word work such as dictionary skills and reading for pleasure.



A Book for every child

We are very fortunate this year that we have been able to purchase every child in Year 3 and 4 a reading text which we can use to link with our literacy and topic lessons. We have chosen *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King and will use this text during our reading hour and comprehension sessions. We will develop the children's skills in text retrieval, skimming and scanning, developing inference skills and deepening children's knowledge and understanding of challenging vocabulary and overall meaning within the text.



Home Reading

Many of our Year 3 and 4 children are now free readers. This means that their reading ability and understanding is at a level where they may choose their own reading books. It also means that their reading becomes their responsibility in changing their book when they have finished reading it. The library is available every day for Free Reader children to change their reading book.

Music

This term, Year 3 are continuing their music sessions with Miss Hardwick where they are developing performing skills on the glockenspiel and singing. They will listen to and perform different styles of music including The Blues and Jazz. The children will also be learning about the theory of music and notation.

Year 4 are continuing to learn to play the guitar with Mr Story through the Wider Opportunities programme. The children will also be working towards an award called 'Discover Arts Award' which supports them in exploring the history of music, observing a range of musical performances and being able to self assess their own musical skills.

Year 4 children will also have the opportunity to visit the Liverpool Philharmonic later in the term, where they will watch a live orchestra perform, and be able to analyse the different sections within the orchestra. More details to follow soon.



Come and See

We will continue with the Come and See RE curriculum this term. We have already started to teach our first topic: 'Community' and will continue to learn about topics: 'Giving and Receiving' and 'Self Discipline' later in the term. Year 4 will be continuing the With You Always programme in preparation for their First Holy Communion.

Our new oratory is now a regular feature of our Collective worship lessons.



Amazing Year 3 and Year 4

Last term was a brilliant term for Lower Key Stage Two and all the staff are very proud of the children and the achievements they made during the Autumn term.

The topics taught were enjoyed by all the children and they certainly learnt lots!

The term finished with our nativity in which the children certainly did both sparkle and shine. I know that it was enjoyed by all those who attended and definitely got everyone into the Christmas spirit. Well done children!

Daily Routine

Each morning, it is expected that children are waiting outside with their year group at 8.55am. It is important that children are prompt for school as learning begins straight away with the first activity starting at 9:00am.



Lost Property

It is vital that all your child's clothing is clearly named so that if it is misplaced it can be returned. All lost property is kept in boxes in the Year 3 and 4 area for a term. At the moment we have quite a few unlabelled cardigans and jumpers. Please let us know if you think it could be your child's.

Equality and Diversity Week

During the week commencing 6th February, we will be celebrating equality and diversity within our school. Years 3 and 4 will look at the themes: bullying and derogatory language and promoting a greater understanding in relation to people with disabilities. We will look at these themes through small workshops, educational video clips and circle time discussions.

World Book Day

This year we will be celebrating 20 years of World Book Day. It will be held on Thursday 2nd March. We ask that the children bring their favourite book in on the day to share with the class. Please log on to www.worldbookday.com for a selection of ideas and activities to celebrate.



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