LKS2 Newsletter
Spring 2026

Curious Responsible Active Respect Creative Brave — Lower Park School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Firstly, may we wish you a very Happy New Year and extend a warm welcome, back to school, after what we hope has been a wonderful Christmas break. We hope you have all had a great rest and are enjoying the start of this new term.

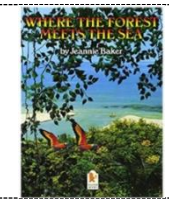
Below, we have outlined information regarding staffing, routines, homework as well as the curriculum activities and events planned for this spring term.

Teaching Staff

Year 3 – Mrs Potts & Mrs Livingstone
Year 3/4 – Miss Cork & Mrs Day
Year 4 - Mrs Chadwick
Mrs Denning, Mrs Crook, Mrs Grimshaw & Miss Thomas (Teaching assistants)

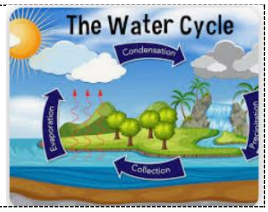
Our Curriculum this term.

English – The children are learning about the rainforest through a variety of texts, "Where the Forest Meets the Sea" by Jeannie Baker and "The Jungle Explorer" by The Literacy Company. We will learn about which animals live in the rainforest and how the rainforest is a wonderful habitat for these creatures. The focus will be non-chronological reports, expanding the children's vocabulary and accurate punctuation.



Maths – During the spring term, the children will be building on their knowledge of multiplication tables to multiply 2 (and 3 digit – Year 4) numbers. This will also be applied to division problems. The children will work on finding the perimeter of shapes before using their knowledge of division to solve fractions problems including adding and subtracting fractions. Finally, we will look at decimals such as tenths and divide 1-digit numbers by 10 and 100. Year three will also be working on mass and capacity.

Science – During science lessons, we will explore states of matter, based on observations and investigative skills. We will plan and carry out enquiries so that we can present our findings and give conclusions based on scientific evidence. We will look at how the states of matter link to our H2O topic, through the water cycle and find ways in which we can reproduce this in the classroom.



D.T. – As designers, we will build bridge like structures that we will use to cross a river. These must be strong enough to support a passing toy car.

Art – As artists we will explore pattern through colour, line and shape including repeating patterns. We will also rise to the challenges given to us during creativity week.

Geography – Linked to our H2O topic, we will learn how a river is formed and the relevant vocabulary such as source, mouth, meander etc. We will learn about the courses of a river and research the names and location of many famous rivers around the UK and the world. We will learn know what erosion and deposition are and how these geographical processes change rivers over time. We will also be studying the

UK, looking at the different regions, and counties in the Northwest, describing human and physical features and learning about what contour lines tell us.



RE – We will be learning about the Jewish faith, focusing on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We will discuss how these celebrations are important to Jewish people. In the second half of the term, we will look at Christianity and answer the question: Why do some Christians call Jesus the saviour?



French – In our French topic, we will be recognising the names of colours, and we will name different animals. Later in the term, we will be talking about our relatives and describe the different people that make up our family. We will discuss Easter in France.

Computing – In the first part of the term, we will be learning about online questionnaires, and the children will be applying their word processing skills to create their own surveys. After half term, we will move on to creating our own podcasts by recording audio clips before sequencing and presenting them using keynote.

PSHE – The children will be engaging in conversations about grief, stealing and medicine. If you would like to discuss any of these topics with your child before hand or support them afterwards, please follow the link below.

[Parent/carer Zone: RSHE and PSHE Support and Guidance]

Music – The children will continue to learn about the language of music through playing the glockenspiel. The learning is focussed around exploring and developing playing skills through the glockenspiel. The Year 3 children will be receiving lessons through Love Music Trust.



myHappymind



We will continue incorporating the 'My Happy Minds' mental and emotional wellbeing programme into our timetable. Once a week, all children in school will participate in activities linked to five modules - meet the brain, celebrate, appreciate, relate and engage. Each module introduces a new set of content and habits to help children build resilience, self-esteem and confidence.

PE sessions

A PE/Games kit is required on the following days:

Outdoor games	
Monday	Y4
Tuesday	Y3
Wednesday	Y3/4
Friday	Indoor PE



PE kit – house t-shirt, dark jogging bottoms. (This can be left in school in a named bag.)

Games kit - dark jogging bottoms, house T-shirt, trainers and spare socks. A carrier bag is useful to bring this occasionally wet and dirty kit home. For safety reasons, please ensure children have long hair tied back and cover any earrings that cannot be removed with tape.

In games this term, children will focus on developing skills used in basketball and tennis. During our indoor PE sessions, we will look at some of the fundamentals of physical activity such as gymnastics before moving on to dance.

Exciting upcoming events to look out for.



- Tuesday 20th January 4:30pm Year 4 residential meeting in school.
- 27th January- Book Bus
- 6th February - Numbers Day.
- 4th and 5th February- Mental Health workshops
- Monday 9th Feb- Friday 13th Feb- IGNITE Creativity Week
- Tuesday 10th February - E-Safety Day
- Thursday 12th February IGNITE Creativity presentation evening.
- 23rd February-6th March- Swimming Pool in School
- Tuesday 3rd March Year 3 Visit to Castleton Blue John caves.
- Wednesday 4th March Year 4 Visit to Castleton Blue John caves.
- 5th March - World Book Day.
- Tuesday 10th March - Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 11th March- Parents' Evening

Lost Property

Please add names to all your children's clothing and equipment so that if lost they can be returned to them.

Homework

Children are expected to log on to Times Table Rock Stars website regularly. Times Tables Rock Stars is a maths programme that takes all the worry out of learning times tables and has a proven track record of boosting children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division. Teachers are able to track progress, and children will also complete tasks at school. Children will receive a half-termly spelling list and ideas on how to learn the words. Spellings should be learned weekly for tests on Fridays. Children should spend about 20 minutes per week on these spelling tasks. Once completed it can be either handed in on Wednesday or uploaded to Google Classroom.

Also, we would expect children to read on a regular basis. We still believe it is a positive and beneficial exercise for children to read aloud to parents/ grandparents/older brothers and sisters at home. It is extremely helpful if you encourage discussion about the plot, characters and what may happen in the story.

One child will be selected each week to complete the reading scrapbook. Please return this to school by the following Wednesday so that it can be shared with the rest of the class.

Children should take around twenty minutes for each piece of homework. If your child is struggling to complete the allocated piece within this time, please let us know. We do understand that many children take part in activities outside school, and this is the reason we have tried to provide a fair and reasonable system so that children can continue to enjoy these clubs without too much homework pressure.



Accelerated Reading



As part of our continued commitment to raising standards and progress in reading, all pupils have a reading book, which is part of the Accelerated Reading Scheme. Accelerated Reading is a scheme which levels all reading books within school. Once your child has read their book, they will be able to take an online quiz which will consolidate their understanding of the text. All children will be issued with their own login so that they can complete the quiz related to their book and also monitor their progress and targets. Please access the Accelerated Reader platform for Lower Park by scanning the QR code (right). Within lessons, children will be given targets and rewards to maintain their focus and continue to engage their love of reading. Look out for your child's login and, if there are any problems, please do let us know.

Our School Rule	School Values
We should smile, be friendly and care for one another Be well mannered and polite Speak the truth Be fair Treat each other with respect and how you would like to be treated Be the best you can be	Curious Responsible Active Respect Creative Brave Lower Park School

Naturally, we expect a high standard of behaviour and attitude as it is important to achieve a happy and purposeful classroom.

Communication:

As always you are welcome to contact the school, via email or phone call, if you have any questions or queries.

If you feel that you could offer help in school in any way, for example by hearing children read, enriching a topic or displays please do get in touch.

Finally, we look forward to an exciting and successful year, and we thank you for your continuous support and encouragement.

Mrs Chadwick, Miss Cork, Mrs Potts, Mrs Livingstone, Mrs Day, Mrs Denning, Mrs Crook (LKS2 team).