LKS2 Newsletter
Autumn 2025

Curious Responsible Active Respect Creative Brave — Lower Park School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the start of the new school year in Lower Key Stage 2.

We hope you have all had a good and relaxing summer break. The LKS2 team are excited to be welcoming the children back for the start of a new school year. Below, we have included key information regarding topics, events, dates and routines that will be taking place this term. We hope that by keeping you informed, your child can make a smooth transition into their new class.

Teaching Staff

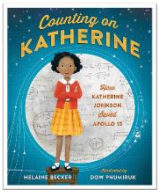
Year 3 – Mrs Potts & Mrs Livingstone
Year 3/4 – Miss Cork & Mrs Day
Year 4 - Mrs Chadwick
Teaching Assistants: Mrs Denning
Mrs Cook
Mrs Brunner

Our Curriculum this term.



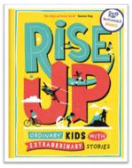


This term, our **English** work will begin with Counting on Katherine by Helaine Becker. This non-fiction picture book biography tells the remarkable story of Katherine Johnson, a mathematician at NASA whose calculations made space travel possible. We will then explore Koji's Island and Amazing Islands by Sabrina Weiss and Kerry Hyndman. These beautifully illustrated information texts take us on a journey to islands around the world, from tropical rainforests to icy landscapes. To enrich our topic work, we will also study





Greek Myths by Jean Menzies. This collection of classic stories is a beautifully illustrated retelling of classic ancient Greek myths. It explains how these myths were part of ancient Greek culture and why they continue to be important today. As writers, these texts will help children explore a wide range of writing styles. They will write biographies, reports, descriptive passages, and persuasive pieces, learning how to adapt their writing for different audiences and purposes. Grammar, punctuation, and spelling will continue to be a key focus, ensuring children's writing is accurate as well as creative.

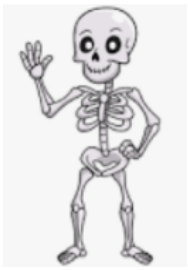


As a class, we will read, share and examine the text: RISE UP Ordinary kids with extraordinary stories by Amanda Li – a non-fiction biography collection of real-life stories of young people who have shown exceptional courage, invention, activism, and perseverance around the world. Grammar, punctuation and spelling will continue to be an important aspect of all pieces of work.

Maths – We will continue to follow the sequence within our maths mastery programme, Power Maths. Power Maths is a whole class mastery programme designed to spark curiosity and excitement and help teachers nurture confidence in maths. At the heart of Power Maths is the belief that all children can achieve. It's built around a child-centred lesson design that models and embeds a growth mind-set approach to maths and develop skills in fluency, reasoning, investigation and problem solving. This term's work will initially include work consolidating and reviewing Place Value.



Science – As scientists, children will explore how humans and some animals have skeletons and muscles that provide support, protection, and movement. They will compare the skeletons of different animals, identifying key similarities and differences. Children will also label the human skeleton and describe the functions of different bones, with a focus on how they help us move and stay safe. The class will discuss how animals, unlike plants, cannot make their own food and must gain nutrition from what they eat. They will learn that all animals, including humans, need the right types and amounts of nutrition to stay healthy.



Children will then investigate and make a model of the simple functions of the basic parts of the digestive system. They will identify the different types of human teeth, research their functions, and carry out an investigation into what can damage teeth. From this, they will present ways we can look after them.



Finally, children will construct food chains, identifying producers, predators, and prey, and using these to explain how living things depend on each other for survival.

Geography – As Geographers, we will identify Europe. We will name and locate the countries and capital cities in Europe using an Atlas or Globe. We will identify latitude and its relevance on the environmental regions of Europe and the main human and physical features which includes discussion on biomes, climate zones and vegetation belts. We will name and locate the main mountains and rivers of Europe and look closer at The Alps and the Rhine. We will work in pairs to make a more in-depth study of one country before sharing our research with our class and creating a large display.





History – As Historians, we will research and explore the lives of the Ancient Greeks and consider the impact that they have on our lives today in Britain.

Art & D.T. – As Artists, we will tell and share stories through sequenced drawings using a variety of platforms and medium such as anime. As Designers, we are designing and preparing bread that takes inspiration from Greek culture and look at how the process of bread baking had developed since Ancient Greek times.

RE – This term, we will look at Christianity and answer the question: How do Christians use words, prayers, songs or hymns to describe God as 'three in one'? In the second part of the term, we will look at Christmas and answer the question: Why do you think there are different stories about Jesus' birth?

ICT – After revising the importance of E-Safety, we will use the app 'Network Explorer' to support the children in understanding computer networks including the internet. They will learn how they can provide multiple services, such as the world wide web; and the opportunities they offer for communication and collaboration. They will use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content. We will also use 'Presentation Book Creator Comic' to design, create and present their ideas.

MFL – During the sessions, children will explore the patterns and sounds of language and engage in conversations to develop vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures. Children will be encouraged to read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing.





Music – As Musicians, we will sing a widening range of songs in unison, with varying styles and structures. We will learn Italian terms for dynamics, play and perform melodies following staff notation using 5 notes. We will compose song accompaniments on tuned and untuned percussion and compose a piece of music using a given structure. We will sing rounds in two parts and compose our own rhythmic accompaniments. Finally, we will learn and adapt a Christmas cumulative song.

Music Taster Evening

On Thursday 18th September, a meeting will be held in school with the peripatetic musicians. This is the ideal opportunity to meet the teachers and listen to the instruments available.



PSHE – As good and healthy citizens, in our PSHE learning, we will learn about the importance of sharing and how to resolve conflicts. We will think about how our words can make each other feel, good or bad. We will consider the effects of negative language and how well-chosen words can improve relationships. We will learn about the term peer pressure and consider the support and value we can gain from friends through teamwork and communication.

myHappymind



This year, 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	Y3
Tuesday	Y4
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 games, the children will be focussing on Dodgeball and ball skills this term. During our indoor PE sessions, we will be looking at some of the fundamentals to physical activity such as balancing, running, jumping, hopping and skipping as well as dance.

For safety reasons, please ensure children have long hair tied back and any earrings that cannot be removed will be covered with tape.

Exciting upcoming events to look out for.- more details to follow



- Thursday 18th September - Musical Instrument 'Taster Session'
- Week beginning 25th September - European Day of Languages
- Friday 10th October 9:00am-9:20 See my books
- Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October – Parents' evening
- 7th November - Sibling and individual photos

- Week beginning 10th November is Anti-bullying and odd socks day
- Saturday 29th Christmas Fair
- Friday 5th December - Freddie Fit

Theme Weeks

During the week beginning 22nd September, we will celebrate European Languages Day. We will be holding a French themed day, where the children will learn about Paris and its landmarks. We hope that on the Thursday, you will encourage your child to dress in a French themed costume. A simple style outfit which simply comprises of the French flag colours would be ideal, or something more elaborate would be brilliant!



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, 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 & Mrs Brunner (LKS2 team).