Spring 2026

Early Years Foundation Stage Newsletter

Curious Responsible Active Respect Creative Brave — Lower Park School

Happy New Year! We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready for the new term. We would like to say a huge thank you for all of your best wishes, cards and gifts – we feel so incredibly lucky.

This term's topic is called **'All Creatures Great and Small!'** It is a great topic with some wonderful learning opportunities that are enhanced by some beautiful books. Below is a brief outline of the focus for each area of learning this term.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Communication and Language	Physical Development
The children will learn about the importance of loving themselves and knowing what they are good at. They will consider how to relax and be mindful through 1 Decision, My Happy Mind and Mindfulness Yoga. They will also be taught about computer and online safety and understand the risks and how to stay safe when using technology.	Through oracy, communication and language they will develop their repertoire of rhymes and use a wider range of vocabulary. They will engage in story times, understanding how to listen carefully and why listening is important. They will talk about familiar books and be able to tell a long story. The children will be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.	Throughout the term the children will take part in dance, ball skills, gymnastics and games. Children will be given opportunities to work independently and with a partner. They will move to the letter formation of the special friends that are found in set 1 and 2 of the Read Write Inc programme.

Literacy	Mathematics
In Spring 1 the children will learn through the story 'I'm going to eat this ant' by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros. They will focus on labels and non-fiction and begin to write labels and captions. They will draw their favourite animal and say or draw some additional information such as what the animals eats. In Spring 2 the children will learn through the text 'Gigantosaurus' by Jonny Duddle. They will draw, paint and make an imaginary dinosaur individually or in a small group. In reading they will continue to read individual letters by saying the sounds for them and blend sounds into words, so that they can read short words made up of known letter–sound correspondences.	During the first half-term, the children will learn to recognise, represent and manipulate numbers to 10. They will focus on comparing groups of objects up to 10, using the key mathematical vocabulary of more, fewer, more than and less than. The children will also compare length, weight and capacity. In Spring 2, the children will explore all the different number bonds to 10 using a ten frame and part-whole models. This will also provide an opportunity to see the inverse relationship between addition and subtraction. The children will also focus on recognising, continuing and building patterns.
Understanding the World	**Expressive Arts and Design**
Using the children's own lives, they will be able to demonstrate change and passage of time through exploring seasons, birthdays and specific local, national and international festivals or celebrations. They will listen to the story of Chinese New Year and act out the main events. We will also discuss different ways people prepare and celebrate Chinese New Year. In our Forest Friday sessions, we will look at the effects of Winter in our school grounds and observe seasonal changes as Winter turns to Spring. We will be carrying out ice experiments and learning about animals that hibernate in the UK and what this means. We will be matching baby animals to their adult parents. Later in the term we will be bird spotting and making bird feeders.	Throughout the term we will create art linked with our two Literacy texts, 'I'm going to eat this ant' and 'Gigantosaurus'. We will begin the term by making our own anteater and ant. We will use lots of different resources. After half term, we will make a paper plate dinosaur and dinosaur footprints out of clay. We will complete a programme of music all about Weather. We will be listening to different pieces of music and discussing the mood created through dynamics and tempo. We will use weather as a stimulus to make compositions using percussion instruments. We will also be using music technology to create different sounds. Our topic will begin with a focus on snowy days!

Dojo

We will continue to use class dojo as a way of rewarding the children's excellent effort in school. The children earn Dojo points throughout the week and will be rewarded with a certificate in class if they win the highest number of points. Additionally, the winning house will wear own clothes on Mondays. Please check the sway which will be sent home on a Friday.

Water Bottles

Throughout the day the children are encouraged to drink water and can refill their bottle at any point. Please ensure that your child brings a named water bottle to school each day. As part of our Healthy Schools pledge the children must only have water in their water bottles. Frequent access to water improves concentration and encourages good health.

Snack Time

In EYFS, the children will continue to receive a piece of free fruit each day for their snack provided by the national fruit scheme for school aged children. Currently, reception children will only have a fruit snack at playtime, and they will be supervised whilst eating. Milk can be ordered termly in advance via your MCAS account, and the children receive this at snack time.

Lunch Menu

We ask that you submit your child's menu choices by Friday at midday for the following week via your MCAS account. We are very lucky that the children have the opportunity to pre-order their lunch and Mrs Grady and her team work very hard to provide tasty and healthy meals for the children to enjoy. We really appreciate your support in completing the menus online as this allows us to start the day promptly.

PE

Our PE lessons will take place on a Monday and Wednesday. The children will continue getting changed for PE before each lesson so they will need to have their PE bag in school. These will be sent home at the end of a half term for washing. PE kits should include shorts and their house-coloured t- shirt. Games lessons will take place outside so please ensure that your child has warm clothing and trainers. Please ensure all items are clearly marked with your child's name. For safety reasons, please ensure children have long hair tied back and any earrings that cannot be removed will be covered with tape.

Forest Friday

The children will also be very active on Fridays in their Forest Friday sessions and will need to wear joggers and their usual uniform t- shirt and jumper/ cardigan. If possible, please provide a pair of wellies to stay in school.

Homework

Reading is our main priority in Early Years. We ask that you hear your child read as regularly as possible as well as reading to them. Please aim to read with your child for 15 minutes every night and please could we also ask that you sign your child's reading record book when they have read at home.

Busy Bee Books will continue to provide a crucial link between home and school. The children really enjoy sharing their news with the rest of the class and it is a lovely opportunity to hear about the children's hobbies and activities outside of school.

The 'Wow' factor

When planning each topic, we consider carefully ways that we can enhance the children's learning and spark curiosity. This term we have planned a range of exciting opportunities for the children that we know they will really enjoy.

Dates for your diary:

* 27th January – Book Bus Visit
* 4th / 5th February – Children's Mental Health Workshops
* 9th February – IGNITE Creativity Week
* 10th February – Safer Internet Day
* 5th March - World Book Day

Polite reminders:

* Please remember a filled water bottle, a waterproof coat and your child's book bag, reading book and reading record each day.
* Please do NOT send in rucksacks as we do not have the space to store them. The corridor is narrow and when the children have coats and rucksacks on their peg they inevitably fall off and can then cause a trip hazard.
* Please complete a lunch menu by midday each Friday via your MCAS account.
* Please ensure all school uniform, including shoes, are named.
* Please add names to any hats, scarves, or gloves that you send into school.

Just to remind you that we will not allow your child to leave school unless we recognise the adult. Please do let us know any regular home time arrangements and if there are any changes then please contact the office who will pass on your message.

As you can see, we have a wonderful term ahead and we are sure that your child will enjoy all the new opportunities and experiences that are planned.

Thank you for your continued support.

EYFS team

