KS1 Newsletter
Spring 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready for the new term. As ever, we would like to say a huge thank you for all of your best wishes, cards and gifts- it really is very kind.
As usual, we are sending home a newsletter at the start of the term to provide you with details about the new topic as well as other important information.
This term's topic is called **'Weird and Wonderful Creatures'**. It is a great topic with some wonderful learning opportunities that are enhanced by some beautiful books.

Our Curriculum this term.

English – We will begin the new term by reading the beautifully illustrated 'The Dragon Machine' by Helen Ward. Reading and writing about dragons is always a favourite with the children and through this text they will learn about different sentence types (such as statements, questions, exclamations and commands), as well as the chance to really use their imaginations to write their own stories. After half term we will enjoy reading 'The curious case of the missing mammoth' by Ellie Hattie, where the children will focus on setting the scene and developing their descriptions of different characters.
Reception/Year One: This term the children will continue to develop their love of reading and writing. We will begin the term by sharing the text 'I'm going to eat this ANT' by Christ Naylor-Ballesteros. They will focus on combining words to make sentences, leaving spaces between words and using punctuation and capital letters correctly. We will also be looking at a variety of minibeasts books throughout our learning. After half term, we will look at the story, 'Gigantosaurus' by Jonny Duddle where we will look at dinosaurs!

Maths – The children in year one will be working through the units numbers to 20, addition and subtraction to 20, Numbers to 50 and they will then be introduced to length, height, mass and capacity. The children in year two will begin with a follow up to addition and subtraction from last term before looking at starting the units on money, multiplication and division, length and height, mass, capacity and temperature.

Science – As Scientists, we will identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including those that are kept as pets. Over the term we will research main features/characteristic of each group. Compare, contrast and group animals (using own criteria) describing how they identified and grouped them. We will identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We will learn how to look after a pet and we will notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

D.T - As designers we will develop our sewing skills to create a piece of bunting to celebrate a UK landmark of the children's choosing.

Art –. As artists we will using flora and fauna to inspire our own artwork. In February, we will be joining with our other Halliard schools to celebrate 'Creativity Week'.

Music – As musicians, we will learn Spring themed songs and compose a piece of Springtime music, thinking about structing our music to math a story. We will use percussion instruments to compose music, describing life under the sea.

Computing– We will be using the app Chatterpix to create an interactive image. Later in the term we will be developing our programming skills using 'Scratch Jr'.

RE – In RE, we begin by exploring the theme of belonging, including how it is expressed in Jewish life through Shabbat. We then look back at Christianity, focusing on the story of Easter and its message of hope and new life.

Geography - As Geographers we will use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of our school and its grounds. We will use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and features; devising a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key. We will then use maps to locate the United Kingdom and its four countries. We will continue to name, locate and identify the characteristics of England and the capital city of London.

PSHE - We will continue to use '1 Decision' for our lessons. We will concentrate on being responsible and how we can prevent accidents. We will also look at feelings and emotions as well as online safety as part of Internet Safety Day.

We will continue with the mental and emotional wellbeing programme 'My Happy Mind'. Once a week, all children in school will continue to participate in activities linked to five modules - 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

The children will continue to take part in two PE sessions a week. One outdoors and one indoors.
Please return your child's PE kit as soon as possible. For safety reasons, please ensure children have long hair tied back and any earrings that cannot be removed will be covered with tape.

Please remember to read the weekly newsletter, to keep up to date with other events that will be happening within school.

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



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

Housekeeping

Your child needs to bring their water bottle and book bag 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 continue to ensure that all items of clothing are named.



Homework

Reading is our main priority in Key Stage One. We ask that you hear your child read as regularly as possible as well as reading to them. Spellings will be sent home from on a Monday/Tuesday and will be tested weekly. In addition to this, children will receive a NUMBOTs login, and we would expect children to spend approximately 15 minutes per week accessing the online platform. Periodically, teachers may send thematic based homework based around their current topic, for example, to participate in the RSBP Birdwatch. Please can we take this opportunity to remind parents to return all RWI books once the children have finished reading them.



Our School Rules

Be Ready
Be Respectful
Be Reflective

Our newly established rules have been carefully developed to reflect the core values of our school. They were collaboratively created by both pupils and staff during the previous academic year. We will continue to engage in regular discussions about these rules and the ways in which they will support every member of the Lower Park community in all aspects of school life.

School Values

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.

As you can see, we have a wonderful term planned and we are sure that your child will enjoy all the new opportunities and experiences that this term has to offer. Please do not hesitate to contact at us at any point if you have any queries or concerns. As always, we will not allow your child to leave school unless we recognise the adult who is there to collect them. 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. We are very excited to begin a jam-packed Spring term and thank you for your continued support.

Key Stage one team