UKS2 Newsletter
Spring 2026

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 5 – Mr Cunha
Year 5/6 – Mr Sutton
Year 6 - Mrs. Jones
Teaching Assistants - Mrs. Duffy, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs Carney, Mrs Parkinson

Our Curriculum this term.

English – This term, we will be using the text 'Darkest Dark' to write a formal biography based on the childhood of real-life astronaut Chris Hadfield. The unit will be working hard to 'master': recognising structures for formal speech and writing, including subjunctive forms; using a variety of verb form including the present perfect, use a wider range of devices to build cohesion and use colons or dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses; linking ideas across the paragraphs using adverbials and using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis.

Maths – We will continue to follow the sequence within our maths mastery programme - 'Power Maths'. This will include work consolidating and reviewing Place Value and arithmetic. Other topics covered will include decimals, percentages, algebra, measure, area and perimeter, ratio and proportion.



Science – This term, our focus revolves around the themes of 'Evolution and Adaptation' and 'Materials'. Delving into the past, we will explore the significance of fossils in uncovering details about the Earth millions of years ago. Through discussions, we will learn about the inheritance of characteristics, recognising how variation in offspring influence adaptability to environments. We will investigate evolution and understand how animals and plants adapt to diverse environments. Later in the term, we will investigate materials by comparing and grouping based on their properties using evidence from planned enquiries and use appropriate techniques and apparatus. We will discuss reasons for the uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic. Using our knowledge of materials, we will make informed decisions on how to mix and separate materials, exploring changes of state. We will understand that although some changes are reversible and that irreversible changes result in the formation of new materials. During the work, we aim to foster an understanding of these scientific concepts, encouraging curiosity and critical thinking. As always, we look forward to an enriching term filled with exploration and discovery.

History and Geography – We will be continuing our study of Raiders and Invaders in history. As Geographers, we will focus on South America. We will learn to name and locate all countries using eight points on compass to describe the location of one South American country to another.
We will match the country to its capital cities as well as investigating other main cities in a selection of countries. We will gain a deeper understanding of the continent by studying the different environmental

regions of South America researching vegetation, average temperatures, rainfall etc. We will use digital mapping to help us look at the different landscapes of South America.
We will name and identify the Andes, referencing the effect of earthquakes on people. We will refer to the latitude and longitude and then find other places on Google Maps with the same line of latitude etc. We will focus on Brazil as a country researching and conducting an in-depth study before working on our own personal project to each investigate one country in South America. We will listen to each other and collect the facts on each country to create our own passport of South America.

D.T. - As designers, we will develop skills of **sewing textiles**. As part of the design, we will investigate how to make a pattern, a prototype, sew and shape curved edges, tack, attach ornaments, and learn how to start and finish off a row of stitches.

Computing – This term, we will be using the app 'Keynote' to design and create our own app prototype. We will plan and design several slides on Keynote adding in shapes, images, text and editing the background. To create a working app prototype, we will link media and text to other slides in the project. Finally, we will evaluate our work.

RE – The children will continue their learning on Hindu Dharma during the first half of the Spring term. They will answer the question, 'How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?' During Easter time, they will look at the Easter story, particularly answering the question, 'How significant is it that God intended Jesus to die?'

ART - As artists, we will be working a Batik inspired banner illustrating key symbols and scenes from native American story of 'The Great Bear and the Little Dipper'. During Creativity Week (Ignite) the children will participate in a range of workshops across Key Stage 2. In the second part of the term, we will be exploring print and activism through the work of Luba Lukova, Faith Ringgold and Shephard Fairey

MFL – This term, Mme. Munum, will continue to explore with the children, the patterns and sounds of language and engage in conversations with them to develop vocabulary, phrases and basic language structures. Children will be encouraged to read carefully and show understanding of words, phrases and simple writing. They will create sentences to describe people, places and things, both orally and in writing





Music – As musicians, we will be exploring the track 'Make you feel my love' by Bob Dylan and covered by Adele. The children will be learning to sing, play, improvise and compose with this song as well as listening to and appraising other pop ballads.

PSHE – Our PSHE focus uses our 1 Decision scheme of work (https://www.1decision.co.uk/resources/parent-carer-zone) to teach children to understand the following themes:
Being Responsible: a module helps children to develop a deeper understanding of being responsible for themselves and how their actions can affect those around them.
A World Without Judgement: this unit supports children in exploring and celebrating the diverse world we live in. Students will have the opportunity to research British values and the laws that exist to protect us.
Anger: a module which looks at the ways in which we can manage our emotions when we are unable to do something we wanted to.

myHappymind

This term, we will continue incorporating the 'My Happy Minds' mental and emotional wellbeing programme into our timetable. Once a week, all children in school 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:

Monday	Outdoor PE Y6
Tuesday	Outdoor PE Y5
Thursday	Indoor PE All Classes
Friday	Outdoor PE Y5/6

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 any earrings that cannot be removed will be covered with tape.

Exciting up coming events to look out for.



21st January - SATs meeting (Y6) 5 pm
27th January – Book Bus visit
4th-5th February – Bounce Workshops for Mental Health
9th-13th February - Ignite Creativity Week
10th February – Safer Internet Day
23rd-6th March – Swimming Pool in school
26th February – Robinwood Meeting (Y5) 5pm
2nd March – Y6 Taster morning at Poynton High
5th March – World Book Day
10th-11th March - Parents' Evening
W/b 16th March/23rd March Crucial Crew (Y6)
23rd-25th March – Robinwood (Y5)

SATS Meeting

This year, the **Year 6** will be sitting their SATs exams on the week beginning **Monday 11th May**. A SATs meeting will be held this term on **21st January at 5.00pm**. This will be an opportunity for teachers to explain more about the SATs tests, revision programme, and ideas about how to help your child. Children are welcome to accompany parents.

Lost Property

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

Homework



We will continue to use 'Maths Bot' as a maths online homework tool. We will usually set tasks on Fridays to be completed by Wednesday the following week.
Children will receive a half termly spelling list. Spellings should be learnt weekly for tests on Fridays. Children should spend about 20 minutes per week on these spelling tasks. Completed homework should be uploaded onto Microsoft Teams.
In addition, 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. Even at this stage, 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.

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 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

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.

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.

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.

We thank you for your continuous support and encouragement.

Jo Jones, Andy Sutton, Mike Cunha, Kath Bailey, Julie Duffy, Mrs Carney, Mrs Parkinson, Amelia Lomas. (UKS2 team)