LKS2 Newsletter
Autumn 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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

We hope you have had a wonderful and relaxing summer break. The LKS2 team are looking forward to welcoming the children back and starting an exciting new school year.

We are delighted to introduce our new class names and class figures this term. Each class has been named after an inspiring figure who has been chosen as a role model for our school values, with their character traits helping us to bring these values to life across the curriculum. Throughout the term, children will learn more about their class figure, including their story, achievements and the qualities they demonstrated, while reflecting on how they can develop and demonstrate these traits themselves. Our commendation certificates will also link to our class figures, school values and character traits, celebrating when children demonstrate these qualities in school.

Below, we have included key information about our topics, events, important dates and routines for this term. We hope this will help you and your child to feel prepared and ensure a smooth and happy transition into the new school year.

We are looking forward to a fantastic term ahead.

Teaching Staff

Year 3	Mrs. Potts & Mrs. Livingstone	(Mo Farah)
Year 3/4	Mrs. Chadwick & Mrs. Day	(Aretha Franklin)
Year 4	Miss Cork & Miss Fernley	(Katherine Johnson)
	Mrs. Denning, Mrs. Grimshaw, Mrs. Howarth, Mrs. Cawley (Teaching assistants)	

Our Curriculum this term.

English – This term, our English work will initially be focussed around the book 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin, and then 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. As writers, we will discuss and produce a variety of different written styles, including recount texts and focus on letter writing. We will then link our writing to our stone age topic by creating our own fictional story set in the Stone Age.
As a class, we will read, share and examine the texts 'The Windrush Story' and 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. These texts will support our writing and topic work. Grammar, punctuation and spelling will continue to be an important aspect of all pieces of work.





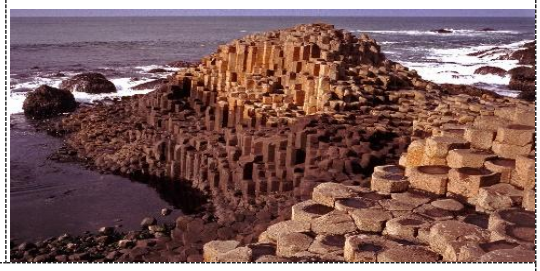
Maths – We will continue to follow the sequence within our maths mastery programme, Power Maths. Power Maths is a whole class mastery programme designed to spark curiosity and excitement and help teachers nurture confidence in maths. At the heart of Power Maths is the belief that all children can achieve. 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 – We will study rocks; grouping and comparing different kinds. We will describe their appearance and investigate their physical properties. As part of this, we will describe how fossils are formed and discover that soils are formed from rocks and organic matter. During our study of light, we will discuss the need for light in order to see and explore the benefits and the dangers. We will investigate and explore shadows and reflection.





Geography – We will look at the UK and identify old settlements on a map, locating key features of the UK countries, counties, cities, and waters. We will identify the iconic human and physical features which make up the United Kingdom and develop our map skills in locating these places. We will create topographical maps in groups and will develop an awareness of distance, direction, and weather. We will also learn about how key places in Britain have changed over time.





History – We will study the key events of the Stone Age to find out what humans needed for survival, what changes happened during the different periods of the Stone Age, and evidence of the past discovered by archaeologists.

Art – We will explore charcoal as a medium and compare artists' techniques. We will think about how Stone Age people would express themselves through mark-making and cave paintings.
D.T. - We will design a drawstring bag that will have a "Stone-Age" theme. We will use our sewing, measuring, cutting, and problem-solving skills to design, create, and evaluate our pouch.

RE – Judaism will be our focus religion this half term. We will study the beliefs and practices of the Jewish community. We will also study the Christian belief centred on the incarnation and study the Christmas story. In Autumn 2, we will study Christianity and examine why the 10 commandments are important to both Christians and Jews.

Computing – After revising the importance of E-Safety, we will learn about networks and how the internet functions. We will use our coding skills to create an animation in Scratch related to our History and Science units.

MFL – During French lessons, 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 – Our unit on the Stone Age will focus on pulse and rhythm. We will develop and notate rhythmic patterns, and compose and perform music using the inter-related dimensions of music.

Music Taster Evening

A meeting will be held in school with the peripatetic music teachers on Thursday 17th September at 6pm. This is the ideal opportunity to meet the teachers and listen to the instruments available.



PSHE– We will revisit why rules are important in our school, home, and society and how we must follow the rules. We will move on to think about what rights we have, why there are specific rights for children, and protected characteristics. Through discussion, we will talk about what conflicting rights are and how we can find resolutions.

We will continue incorporating the 'My Happy Minds' mental and emotional well-being 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.

To further support and reinforce this learning, myHappymind has developed a dedicated Parent App. You can access these resources online from your computer or conveniently through the app on your phone. The Parent App is designed to support you as a parent or carer by helping you understand what your child is learning, providing fun activities you can enjoy together at home, and giving you access to a Kids Zone featuring myHappymind Games, along with lots more!

For more information on My Happy Mind click here

To access these materials, you will first need to create your free account. You will need to enter your name, email, and authentication code 151153. We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum.



PE sessions



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

Tuesday – Y3/4	Outdoor games
Wednesday – Y3	
Thursday- Y4	
Friday - Everyone	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.

In games this term, children will focus on Hockey and Netball skills. During our indoor PE sessions, we will look at some of the fundamentals of physical activity such as balancing, running, jumping, hopping, and skipping before moving on to dance.

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

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



- Monday 7th September 6:00pm PTA AGM
- Thursday 17th September - Musical Taster Evening KS2 in the hall 6:00 pm
- Thursday 24th September European Languages Day
- Friday 2nd October 9:00-9:20 – See my books
- Tuesday 6th October and Wednesday 7th October - Parents evening
- Thursday 22nd October Halloween Disco
- Friday 24th October - School closes for Half Term
- 3rd November INSET Day
- 6th Nov PTA dress down 1
- 13th Nov PTA dress down 2
- 13th Nov Rock Kidz - whole school Day
- Monday 16th to Friday 20th November Anti-bullying Week – break the silence
- 20th Nov PTA dress down 3
- Friday 26th November Sibling and Individual photographs
- 27th Nov PTA dress down 4
- Saturday 28th November Christmas Fair
- Wednesday 2nd December Choir visit to Parklands Nursing Home
- Thursday 3rd December – Wreath Night
- Friday 4th December - Freddy Fit

- Tuesday 15th December - Pantomime visit
- Friday18th December – school closes

Theme Weeks

During the week beginning 21st September, we will celebrate European Languages Day. We will be holding a French themed day, where the children will learn about different countries where the French language is spoken. 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 can 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 handed in by Thursday.

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 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 or in person, 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.

Barbara Chadwick, Lucy Potts, Teri Livingstone, Rosie Cork, Rachael Fernley, Helen Day, Jaime Howarth, Steph Denning, Vicky Cawley and Alison Grimshaw (LKS2 team)

Halliard Trust