



Lower Junior Newsletter - Autumn Term 2020

A very 'Happy New Academic Year' is wished to you. It is lovely to have all the children back in school after such a long break and it was great to see their smiling faces as they arrived back on the first day. We are working hard in the Lower Juniors to ensure that your children have a safe and positive return and would like to thank you for your support in dropping your children off at the school gates. The children are becoming increasingly independent and enjoy taking a greater responsibility for organising themselves. They have quickly adapted to the 'new normal' and are working hard to follow social distancing rules and all the other safety measures that have been put in place.

Please find some information below that should help your child make a smooth transition into Year 3 or Year 4.

The Lower Key Stage 2 Teachers:

- Miss Preston- Year 3 (3CP)
- Mrs Cole - Year 3 (3EC)
- Mrs Allen - Year 4 - Lower Key Stage 2 Leader (4JA)
- Miss Caplin -Year 4 (4CC)

Curriculum Coverage

As you will no doubt be aware, there is a wide range of curriculum coverage beyond English and Maths each term and our new approach to cross-curricular learning will embed other subjects in a topic as far as possible. Our topics could include Geography, History, English, Maths, Science, Art, DT and even PE when appropriate. Subsequently, as a team we have in-depth planning of these subjects which we use on a weekly basis to guide our teaching. If you have any resources or expertise in these areas, we would welcome the opportunity for you to share them with us.

Pencil Cases

Many of the children are enjoying having their own pencil cases. Please ensure that they only have one pencil case containing the essentials. Please be assured that every child has an essential set of stationery at school which is provided for their individual use should they not wish to bring their own items to school.





Uniform

All children must wear the correct uniform with a special plea that all items are clearly named. An exceptional amount of the day can be spent on tracking down missing school uniform - especially if it is unnamed. You would be amazed at how many unnamed school sweatshirts/ cardigans have already been 'lost'. Please also observe the school rules for jewellery and ensure that, for safety reasons, only stud earrings can be worn, which must be removed for PE or even better removed before coming to school on PE/swimming days. Only permitted religious bangles may be worn and **MUST** be covered with a sweatband for PE.

Homework

The children have already received their first list of tasks, which carry a number of house points. We would ask that over a half-term that children complete tasks to reach a minimum of 60 house points. **Please do not allow/encourage your child to complete every task!** We would encourage children to spread out the completion of tasks across the time given, rather than trying to complete them all in the last week or indeed in the first week! We feel this system allows parents the flexibility for tasks to be undertaken around busy social lives and will enable the children to still complete the tasks within the time limit. Completed tasks may be brought to school every Friday and there will be an opportunity to share their work with other pupils. We believe that homework should be a time for parents to be actively involved in their child's learning and allows parents an insight into what their children are learning about at school. For this reason, parents should discuss tasks and support their child in completing it. (Not do it for them!) Year 3 pupils have received their child's login for 'DoodleMaths' and Year 4 pupils will continue to use the login they were issued with previously. Last year it was found to be a successful complement to our daily Maths lessons and was enjoyed by all. Tasks will be set fortnightly.

Reading

Reading practice needs to take place daily at home for 10 minutes (Monday to Thursday and once over the weekend) with questioning to show understanding. We request that parents record a brief comment in their child's reading record and sign each time they read. Please be aware that the only way your child's teacher knows that your child has read, is if the record is returned daily and signed. We would greatly appreciate your co-operation with this matter.



Spelling

Each week your child will focus on a particular spelling pattern at school. This will correlate to the half-termly list that has been sent home. Your child will be informally tested on **2-5** of these words at random from the current week's list to check their progress. It is far more important that your child applies spellings in their work rather than just learning for a test and then forgetting them. If your child is writing at home it would be beneficial to look at spelling mistakes and discuss the correct spelling with them.

Times Tables

Children are expected to know their times tables to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4 and will be tested nationally during the summer term of Y4. Children will answer multiplication questions against the clock on a computer, with 6 seconds to answer each one-mark question in a series of 25. The test will last no longer than 5 minutes. Children practise times tables constantly during maths lessons but we also ask children to learn them at home for a weekly test at school.

Physical Education

The Lower Juniors participate in two physical education (PE) lessons each week unless swimming lessons are taking place. Your children will require a clean indoor and outdoor PE kit and these should also be clearly named. *Please be assured, children do not recognise their own white t-shirt or blue shorts!* **Please note that children are required to wear trainers, not plimsolls. We would ask for PE kits to remain in school until half-term to reduce the transfer from home to school.**

Indoor PE	white t-shirt, navy shorts, bare feet
Outdoor PE	white t-shirt, navy shorts, trainers , dark tracksuit for colder weather conditions (not their school jumper)

PE is a requirement of the National Curriculum and therefore kit should be in school every week.

The Lower Junior PE timetables are as follows:

Class	Indoor	Outdoor
3EC	Wednesday	Monday
3CP	Wednesday	Monday
4CC	Tuesday	Wednesday
4JA	Wednesday	Thursday



Social Network Sites and the Internet

Those parents who have attended any of our fantastic information sessions on Internet Safety will fully appreciate the seriousness of how our children's safety can be compromised if parents are not monitoring computer games and social network sites. In addition, social network sites such as Facebook are illegal for any child under 13 years of age; it is sometimes a place for some inappropriate interaction or unkind comments being made by some pupils. This behaviour can then intrude on a pupil's education. If you allow your child to sign up to these websites, or use them at other children's homes, please be aware of your role of responsibility and ensure that you have full access by knowing your child's password.

Water and Fruit

Please can all children bring in a water bottle to keep in their class so that they can have a drink throughout the day. During current conditions it is difficult to provide individual cups and water fountains cannot be used; therefore having their own water bottle is even more important. Children are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit to eat at morning break. Lunchtime is at 12.30pm for Year 3 and 12.45pm for Year 4, which is later than in KS1 so a snack does help them to allow for a later lunch.

Golden Time

Golden time continues to be awarded to all children on a Friday afternoon. It is a valuable opportunity for social interaction, adds to the children's sense of well-being and allows the class teacher time to interact with the children in a more informal setting.

I trust this information will be of help to you over the next term. In the meantime, I wish you and your children a very happy and successful 2020/21.

Mrs Jo Allen
Lower Key Stage 2 Leader