



Lower Junior Newsletter - Autumn Term 2019

A very 'Happy New Academic Year' is wished to you. Thank you to everyone who attended the Lower Junior Induction Meeting. It was a lovely opportunity to introduce the Junior Team and explain how the curriculum will be taught this term, together with how your child needs to be organised now they are in Key Stage 2. We are working hard to ensure that your children are becoming increasingly independent with their learning and appreciate your support, particularly when leaving them in the morning. We will also be making every attempt to consider worthwhile trips or visitors to our school in order that our curriculum is enhanced further and put into context. A further summary of what was discussed follows:

The Lower Key Stage 2 Teachers:

- Mrs Allen - Year 3 - Lower Key Stage 2 Leader
- Miss Preston - Year 3
- Miss Clark/Mrs Collins - Year 4
- Mrs Cole - Year 4

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

Again, to encourage your child to be independent and ready to start a task, please take some time to buy a '**smallish**' pencil case. This should contain their pencil, eraser, small ruler, barrel sharpener and a small gluestick. Optional items could include some colouring pens or pencils and a set of highlighter pens.

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. 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. Only permitted religious bangles may be worn and **MUST** be covered with a sweatband for PE.





Homework

Having listened to many differing views about homework, we are trialling a new system in Years 3 and 4. The children will be set a list of tasks which carry a number of housepoints. We would ask that over a half-term that children complete tasks to reach a minimum of 60 housepoints.

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. 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 Parents will soon receive their child's login for 'doodlemaths'. 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 once logins have been issued.

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 will be sent home. Your child will be tested on **3** 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.

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 plimsolls are no longer required.

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
3JA	Wednesday	Thursday
3CP	Tuesday	Wednesday
4EC	Monday	Wednesday
4GC/LC	Monday	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. Children are encouraged to bring in a piece of fruit to eat at morning break. Lunch time is at 12.45pm which is later than in KS1 so a snack does help them to allow for a later lunch.



Golden Time

We have reviewed Golden time in our school and it is now 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 a time to interact with the children in a more informal setting.

Residential Trips

News will follow shortly of a residential trip open to Y3 and 4 (with Y4 taking priority) to the Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire. It is booked for Monday 22nd June to Wednesday 24th June 2020.

Assessments

Internal assessments will take place throughout the year, the results of which will be reported at the Parents' Evenings that will follow. However, concerns at any time over your child's progress can be discussed with their class teacher after school most nights, preferably with an appointment. The mornings are far more difficult now that teachers have door duties or are in their classrooms covering the start to the day.

Spellings and Times Table Tests

Class	Spelling	Times Tables
3JA	Wednesday	Friday
3CP	Thursday	Friday
4EC	Friday	Friday
4GC/LC	Friday	Tuesday

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 2019/20 and look forward to seeing you around Wraysbury Primary School.

Mrs Jo Allen
Lower Key Stage 2 Leader