



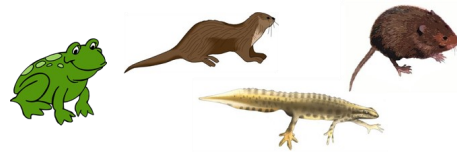
# Lower Key Stage 2 Newsletter Spring Term 2024



Happy new year!  
Welcome back to the spring term.  
We hope that you all had a fantastic Christmas break and are feeling ready for an exciting term ahead in 2024.  
The children have had a great start to the term this week and are showing lots of enthusiasm in their learning.

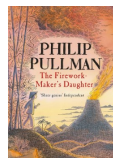
## Lower Key Stage Two

Mrs Cribbens (Otters class teacher/ Team Leader)  
Mrs Barrington (Frogs class teacher)  
Mrs Shaikh (Newts class teacher)  
Miss Stuart (Water Voles class teacher)  
Supported by: Mrs Moore, Mrs Safi and Miss Harris  
Student teachers: Miss Sharp and Mrs Woodcock



## Curriculum Information

### Literacy



In the first half of this term, our Literacy and guided reading activities will be linked to 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman. This is a wonderful story full of unique characters, incredible locations and lots of fun too! We will be developing our vocabulary, taking inspiration from the text to create character descriptions, write narratives for part of the story, write persuasive adverts to hire a firework maker as well as letter writing.

In the second half term, our Literacy learning will be linked to the Mayans topic and will involve writing about chocolate. This will include a character description, an explanation text of how chocolate is made, a persuasive advert and a balanced argument. We will also have the opportunity for some speaking and listening activities throughout the spring term.

As well as having class-based Literacy lessons, the children will also take part in regular guided reading, spelling, grammar and handwriting sessions.

Please remember that children should be reading at least 4 times a week at home. This is very important as it helps improve children's accuracy when reading. They can read a range of books, magazines or comics to help them develop a love for reading.

### Numeracy



Year 3 will spend the spring term learning to use written methods for multiplication and division, then applying these skills when solving problems. Also, they will look at statistics where they will interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms and tables. They will learn to recognise, find, write and use fractions. Towards the end of term they will measure, add and subtract length as well as understand what perimeter is.

Year 4 will be applying their times table and division facts when multiplying and dividing. They will use formal written methods to multiply 2 and 3 digit numbers by a single digit. They will move on to learning about fractions where they will learn to recognise equivalent fractions as well as simplifying, adding and subtracting them. Towards the end of term, they will explore decimal numbers.

A vital part of maths is to know times tables and the matching division facts. The children are set Multipliers targets based on these expectations and should be practising them regularly as part of their homework. Any help you are able to give with this would be much appreciated.

## Curriculum information continued

### Science

Year 3 will begin the term learning about forces and magnets. They will understand what a force is and how they are used. They will have the opportunity to explore different types of magnets as well as identifying magnetic objects. They will move on to learn about light and shadow where they will explore how light helps us see and how shadows are formed.

Year 4 will learn about states of matter. They will learn to identify the properties of solids, liquids and gases. As well as how temperature affects the states of these. They will move on to learn about the process of the water cycle.

### History/ Geography

Our first topic is about the way that natural resources such as food and energy are distributed around the world. We will have the chance to discuss topical issues within this such as pollution and protecting our environment in different, sustainable ways.

In the second half of the term, our topic will have a history focus and we will learn about the Ancient Mayan civilisation. This will include learning where they lived, what they believed and also what they left us.

### Art/ DT

In Art the children will have the chance to create abstract self portraits in the style of Modigliani.

During the second half of the term, we will have a very exciting DT project based all around chocolate!

### RE

In RE lessons we will be looking at the different sacred texts. We will also have the opportunity to find out about different stories linked to key religious festivals.

### Music

Year 3 will work to develop their knowledge of rhythm, pitch and beat using their voices and different musical instruments.

Year 4 will work with a specialist teacher to play brass instruments.

### Computing

Year 3 will learn how to stay safe online and how to use desktop publishing.

Year 4 will learn how to build a program using algorithms in the Scratch Maze game. They will then use a computer aided design program to design a house.

### PSHE:

Children will begin learning about human rights and they will explore how rights are there to protect people. They will also discuss what being part of a community means.

Next half term they will move on to learn about risky and negative relationships. This will also involve thinking about what healthy relationships are.

## Dates for your diary...

w/b 29th January - Book week

Tuesday 30th January - Bedtime stories after school

Friday 2nd February - Book character dress up day

Thursday 8th February - Internet safety parents meeting

Monday 26th February - Newts start swimming

Thursday 25th January - Newts class assembly

Thursday 1st February - Frogs class assembly

Thursday 28th March - Water Voles class assembly.

## PE

**Frogs:** Tuesday and Thursday

**Otters:** Monday and Wednesday

**Water Voles:** Monday (PE) and Thursday (Swimming)

**Newts:** Tuesday and Thursday

All pupils in Year 3/4 need to bring their P.E. kits (black shorts, red t-shirt and plimsolls or trainers) every Monday. Kits can be taken home on Friday for washing.

The PE cup is awarded to the class with the most children in full PE kit, so please ensure your child has the correct kit for each lesson. Every class would love to win the trophy!



## Homework

Every week, the children should complete the following homework:

- Times table or division facts practise.
- Spelling practice - 4 times (Spellings will be tested on Friday and new words set on the same day)
- Reading - 4 times (Reading diaries will be checked on Fridays, please encourage your children to read regularly and sign their diary each week)
- One piece of Maths (My Maths) and one piece of English/Topic (Teams) to be completed each week (this will be set on a Thursday and is due back on the following Tuesday)
- TT Rockstars - Times table practise.

Teachers will be rewarding great home learning with Dojo points.

## Reminders

### Year 4 Multiplication Check

This will take place in June. The children will continue to practise their times tables in school. Please encourage your child to practise at home too. [www.timestables.co.uk](http://www.timestables.co.uk) is a great website as well as [www.ttrockstars.com](http://www.ttrockstars.com)

### Water Bottles

Every child needs to have a water bottle, filled with water only, in school so that they don't become dehydrated during the school day. Please make sure that the bottle is named.

### Snack

Children are welcome to bring in a fruit or vegetable snack to enjoy at break time.