

# Lower School

## Autumn Term 2020 Welcome back! Curriculum Newsletter

First of all, we would like to say a huge welcome back to everyone after what has so far been a very unusual year! We hope you had a lovely summer break given the circumstances this year. We have loved being back in school and getting to know the children. They have all settled in exceptionally well to our new 'normal' ways of school life and we are already proud of them all!

During the Autumn term our main focus is to get the children settled, with their well-being at the forefront of everything we do as well as having lots of fun and exciting learning in class.

In the Lower Phase our first theme is 'Me, Myself and I' - a recovery topic to help settle the children back in a new 'normal' way of life.

**Within this theme many of the curriculum areas will be covered:**

**English:** We will cover many different texts over the next two terms in English some being fiction and some being non-fiction. In year 1, we are going to start with the text 'Peace at Last'. We will learn actions to go alongside the story to help us re-tell it, as well as having a focus on sentence writing using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces, whilst using our phonics to help us sound out words.

In year 2 we will be making sure that the skills taught in year one are really embedded and the children are secure and confident in using those skills. We will be learning how to make our writing really exciting using adjectives. We will also be exploring how to join our sentences using conjunctions. We will be looking at specific spelling rules and begin to move away from spelling phonetically.

**Maths** In year 1, we will start off by looking at the place value of numbers up to 30. We will use this knowledge to help us with addition and subtraction to 20. We will also be looking at basic shapes and their properties.

In year 2 we will be looking at number and place value, ordering 2-digit numbers and recognising the values of tens and ones. We will be using number lines and representing numbers in different ways. We will look at 2-D and 3-D shapes and their properties. We will also focus upon number bonds to 10 and 20 to ensure the children are secure with quick mental recall of these number facts.

**R.E.** In year 1 our key question is 'Who made the world?'. We will be looking at the creation story and making sure children can re-tell this as well as being able to talk about what they are thankful for in our world.

Our key question in year 2 is "Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?". We will focus upon stories from the Bible which illustrate kindness and compassion and we will relate it to how we treat others and expect to be treated.

**Science** We are going to be learning about our bodies, how we grow and change as we get older, our five senses, how humans and animals are similar and different and what things we need in order to stay alive.

**Geography** In Geography we are going to be thinking and learning about ourselves and our local area as part of a recovery curriculum to support the children in settling back into a normal way of life, both inside and outside of school. We will be using maps to locate areas as well as creating our own maps of the town.

**Art** Within art we are going to be creating self portraits using different materials. We will also be learning about Vincent Van Gogh, and using observational skills to re-create his paintings.

**D.T.** In D.T. we will be looking at levers, wheels and pivots. We will be creating our own simple levers.

**Music** Our music is taught by Mrs Norgrove, the Music teacher this term, who will be singing with the children. We will also be looking at rhythm and playing different instruments.

**PSHE** Our initial focus will be a COVID recovery theme which looks at how and why things are different back in school and the sort of things we can do to keep happy and safe whilst in school. Later in terms 1 and 2 we will look at the theme of 'Being me in my world'. This offers children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals within a community and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair community for all.

**P.E** This term we will be exploring different Games in P.E. The children will learn to move fluently around spaces and control their bodies in different ways. We will be thinking about how we can still interact as a group and join in with socially distanced games. As part of this we will also consider how our bodies are affected by exercise. Any equipment used will be cleaned before and after use. Handwashing and cleanliness will be routine.

**Computing:** Our first unit in computing this term is learning about 'coding'. We will be using iPads and other means to create sequences to create simple 'algorithm' instructions. iPads will be thoroughly cleaned between use by children.

### Meet the team!

Welcome back! We are all so pleased to be back with your children.

### 2020-21 Lower Phase Team:

#### Teachers:

Mrs J Baines—Lower school phase leader (Holly)

Mrs Tiddy—Monday—Wednesday (Willow)

Mrs C Hearn—Thursday and Friday (Willow)

Mrs L Bell (Elm)

Mr Mead (Elm—Friday)

Miss Ferguson (Ash)

#### Teaching Assistants:

Mrs N Mack

Mrs C Hornby

Mrs S Pearce

Mrs J Mortimer

Mrs T Morris

Mrs C Caven

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to—however big or small—through class Dojo.

### Special notes:

- Please read with your child at home 5 x week and record this in their reading records.
- Reading books and records will be sent home on a Monday and will be taken in on a Friday to be quarantined over the weekend ready for new books to give out on a Monday.
- Spellings will be sent home once children have settled. Please practise these as much as possible
- Please can you ensure all clothing and bottles are labelled to prevent them getting lost or mixed up.