

Dear Parents/Carers

Lower Juniors 2017 - 2018

Below are some of the key points presented at the meeting on Wednesday 12th July:

The Lower Junior Team

Team Hazel and Lower Junior team leader - Mrs Hulse

Team Hazel (Thursday and Friday afternoons) - Mrs Nicholson

Team Ash - Miss Martin

Team Oak - Mr Culver

Teaching assistants: Miss Merivale, Mrs Fisher, Mrs Whitlock, Mrs Woodhouse

Team organisation

Teams are an equal split of Year 3 and Year 4. We teach the children according to ability and not age group. Children will work within a small group of children mixed according to age, gender, ability, strengths etc.

General expectations of a Lower Junior pupil

To be more independent, take greater responsibility, respect the rights of others, try their best and feel comfortable to accept challenge.

English lessons

Every morning from 9 - 9.30, the children will take part in reading activities. For most this will be reading a text as a whole class then answering comprehension questions. For some, and particularly in the Autumn term, we will focus mainly on developing reading fluency. Our main English lessons will often involve the children learning to tell stories and other text types off by heart before writing then using them as models to invent their own writing. There will be a daily focus on SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) which will support the children in learning the spellings set in the Dragon ABC book that they bring home as well as the punctuation and grammar requirements for the Lower Juniors. Children who are finding the Year 3/4 word list words too challenging will be given a separate spelling input and Dragon ABC book.

Maths lessons

All lessons will begin with a mental maths focus. Some children will work in smaller groups during this session and have the opportunity to use a resource to improve working memory in Mathematics that Mrs Woodhouse has recently been trained in by Oxford University. Main lessons will always involve developing concepts through concrete apparatus and pictorial images as well as provide opportunities for children to apply their understanding in problem solving and reasoning tasks. We will develop their ability to use the bar model (a pictorial approach that helps pupils to visualise problems) and all learning will be recorded on the class Mathematics Working Wall so that the children can constantly refer to it.

Topics

Autumn - Stone Age to Iron Age (long) plus Young Enterprise including chocolate (shorter)

Spring - Active Planet (volcanoes and earthquakes)

Summer – Explorers and Adventurers including the local area

Homework

- Read regularly and complete the reading challenge. It is fine for the children to complete what they have read and how many pages but we ask that you sign to acknowledge they have read.
- Practise spellings
- Complete 1 task per week from the homework take-away menu

What children will need

Healthy snack for break (or money for the tuck trolley), named water bottle and a small pencil case containing: pencil/s, handwriting pen (black, no biro!), ruler, rubber, sharpener, colouring pencils, green biro for editing. We have stationery available in school but we know how much the children like to have their own belongings in a pencil case. All Lower Junior children will be completing a piece of work at the beginning of term and those who use mainly joined handwriting and capitals correctly will be given their pen license. They may then use their own pen or we will provide one labelled with their name (up to 3 pens in the year). Please ensure all uniform and P.E. kit is labelled with their name.

Beginning and end of the day

Children are to say goodbye to parents/carers either at the school gate or by the exterior doors to the library. Teaching assistants will welcome them at the doors and can note down any concerns or messages you would like passed to your child's teacher. Teachers will not be available in the morning as they are welcoming every member of their team into class to ensure a calm, settled start to the day. At the end of the day, children must be collected from the rear doors to the classrooms. We will not release them via the library side doors.

Helpers

If you would like to come into school to help out in the LJs, we are always grateful for volunteers, particularly from the beginning of the day and through our guided reading time (9 - 9.30). Please let your child's class teacher know.

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

Your child has brought home with them a purple exercise book and a Stone Age to Iron Age book label. They should cover and decorate this book in a style to suit the topic and stick the label to the front with their full name and team written on it. To prevent books from becoming tatty, please cover with sticky back plastic. Otherwise, keep up the reading and we would love to receive postcards from the children if they have been on a holiday, day trip or would just like to tell us about a fun day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hulse.

We wish you a wonderful Summer holiday with your families and look forward to seeing all the children refreshed and ready to learn in September.

Yours sincerely

The Lower Junior Team 2017/18