

LOWER JUNIOR NEWS

Friday 12th January 2018

Welcome

We hope that you all had a relaxing Christmas with your families. What a great start to the Spring Term! We all really enjoyed our first two days back and the children produced some fantastic Aboriginal style art.

Thank you for helping your child to cover their books over the holidays – they look super. We are really looking forward to finding out more about our Active Planet.



Maths

This term, building on our work on place value and times tables, we will be focusing on multiplication and division of larger numbers. Practical apparatus and pictorial methods will still be used alongside to support the children however it is expected that our more able mathematicians will be able to use more formal recording methods.

Later in the term we will be further developing our understanding of fractions and decimals.

As usual, the children will need to be able to apply their knowledge and understanding to reasoning tasks and problems.

English

This term our English work will be closely linked to our topic Active Planet. We will be writing poetry and newspaper reports about natural disasters as well as information texts about volcanoes. We will be creating our own disaster stories modelled on *Escape from Pompeii* by Cristina Balit.

We are still looking out for those children who demonstrate that they can use a neat, joined style of handwriting and earn their pen license!



Topic

This term our topic is 'Active Planet' and we kick-started this with a mock evacuation due to a 'flood'!

The children will begin by learning about how the earth is formed and how the movement of tectonic plates can cause natural disasters. They will develop an understanding of not only the physical impact of these disaster but also the human impact.



Home Learning

Reading

Please ensure your child reads at least 4 times a week and that this is recorded in their Reading Challenge booklet so they can earn points. As well as having a reading challenge reward at the end of each term, we have also introduced a reading raffle this year. On Mondays only, children will receive raffle tickets for the number of points they earned the previous week. The owner of the winning ticket selects a new book of their choice! This has been a real source of excitement for the children.

Spelling

Each week, the children will have 3 words from the Year 3/4 word list to learn plus some homophones (or near homophones). They have to learn how to spell the words but also how the spelling and/or meaning can change when prefixes and suffixes are added. Please see your child's Dragon ABC for more details.

Takeaway homework

Children are expected to complete the equivalent of one piece a week (2 starters, 2 mains, 2 desserts) during a half term. They may choose to complete more than one in advance. Every child has a copy of the takeaway menu and it is available via the school website.

Maths

It is extremely beneficial for the children to practise their times tables. Please see the separate Maths Champions booklet. Also, you may find that your child brings home one of our 'Weekly Watches' - please help them to learn to tell the time, a very important life skill, using the suggestions in the booklet if necessary.

Information about various parent workshops will follow shortly.



Parent Helpers

We have quite a large number of children who need to read daily and therefore really need an army of parent helpers to listen to readers! If you would like to help between 9:00 and 9:30 or 3:00 and 3:30 then please let your child's class teacher know.

General

To allow teachers to greet every child into the classroom, please **do not** try to enter the library area to have a conversation with them in the morning. Teaching assistants will be on the outer doors to take any messages. This will also help to encourage greater independence for your child as they enter school themselves and organise their own belongings.

Sally Hulse, James Culver, Beth Martin and Maribel Nicholson

Lower Junior Team