

Curriculum News

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Welcome back

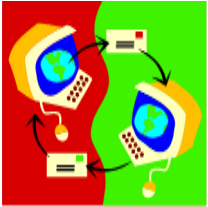
I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break. I am pleased to report that the children have started the year very well and have settled into the class routines very quickly.

During the course of the year bits and pieces of clothing often go 'missing'. If your child misplaces any possession they are encouraged to look in the lost property box. However some children benefit from mum or dad helping them look through the lost property box, so if you find yourself in this situation please do not hesitate to pop in and have a rummage. At the end of each half term all classes are given the opportunity to collect their missing possessions after which any unclaimed lost property is disposed of.

I would like to remind all families that, whenever possible, we would like to send school communications home electronically. If you are happy to share your email address with us we will add you to the mailing list. Just send an email to: info@lissjunior.hants.sch.uk

Last year we introduced a text alert service which has proved very useful in helping parents know of any last minute changes to clubs etc. To help us maintain good lines of communication, please let the office know of any changes to your mobile telephone number as soon as possible.

If your child cycles or scoots to school they can use the Cyclepods to lockup their bike or scooter for the day. To help us manage the bikes and scooters we do ask the children to attach a parking permit to their bike or scooter. These are available on request from the school office. As the new year gets underway I would like to draw your attention to the electronic school calendar which can be accessed via the school website. The e-calendar shows details of all planned events and, when appropriate, gives details of start and finish times, locations and people involved. The school's e-calendar is regularly updated.



LOWER JUNIORS

Our topic for this term is the Ancient Greeks. We will be continuing to develop the children's sense of chronology and will place this period of history on a timeline of known periods. We will be exploring daily life through artefacts and pictures. The children will examine myths and legends and find out about food, drink, warfare and religion. The impact of the Greek legacy will also be considered. There will be close links with our Literacy work and with Art and DT.



Maths and English activities are scheduled each day and will follow the National Numeracy and Literacy Framework. For the first half of the term, during our daily Literacy hour, we will be focusing on reading and writing Myths and Legends; exploring historical texts and report writing, including instructions. We will be investigating how characters develop in a story and will be writing our own character studies. We will also be looking at how plots are developed and discussing how they are structured. Linked with our text work, we will be using different tenses and paragraphs to organise and sequence our written work. During the second half of the term, we will be exploring persuasive writing, developing our own advertising campaigns in conjunction with our Enterprise project. We will also be using IT to draft and layout reports and edit stories to fit a particular space. In grammar we will be identifying verbs and adverbs and discussing their impact on the meaning of sentences. Throughout both terms we will be developing independent spelling strategies.

During class activities, children read set reading scheme materials and are encouraged to take home free choice reading books from either the class or school library. We would be grateful for your co-operation in hearing your child read on a daily basis. Your child will be given a reading card, to be used both at home and at school to record their progress. If you hear your child read, please feel free to add a comment on the back of the reading card.



Spelling groups will commence this term. Children will take home set spellings on a Friday to learn for the following week. School time will be allocated for the children to learn spellings, but any time you are able to spare helping your child at home, will reinforce their learning and benefit them greatly.

In Numeracy, the children will be developing their understanding of place value and addition and subtraction. They will be looking at the properties of 3D shapes, as well as fractions, time and data handling. They will be problem solving and investigating the properties of odd and even numbers. They will also be reading and estimating time and using timetables and calendars. Children will be developing strategies for mental calculations and oral mental arithmetic will be given on a daily basis. If you are able to play number games at home with your child, or give them fun oral mental arithmetic tasks on a regular basis, this will build their confidence and help speed up mental computations.

We will be holding an enterprise project during December, when classes will develop and run a small business. They will use and apply budgeting skills, work with decimal numbers and create spread sheets. They will design logos, prepare presentations and create an advertising campaign. The children will be holding a Trade Fair on Friday, 6th December to advertise their wares. They will then be selling their products at a Christmas Market on 13th December. Details to follow nearer the time.

Science work will focus on teeth and healthy eating. We will explore the functions of different teeth and how to look after them. We will also be exploring how we move and grow, learning how the skeleton is related to movement and support in humans and what happens to the skeleton and muscles as they move.

Art for the term will also be linked to our History topic and we will be discussing the role and purposes of art and craft during different times and cultures. We will be designing and making replica Greek plates out of clay and decorating them in suitable styles.

Each week the children will have one period of PE and one period of games. We will be developing different methods of springing and landing on and off apparatus in gym and expressing feelings through movement in dance. In games we will be developing general ball skills in hockey and net-



ball and playing co-operatively in small team games. We would be grateful if your child's named PE kit could be brought to school on Monday and left in school until Friday. Games lessons will take place mainly on the field or playground, so trainers and a tracksuit or sweater might be required for those cooler autumn days.

In music, the Year 3 children will be looking at the different structures of music. They will have the opportunity to experiment and play different musical instruments, as well as listening to and appraising different genres of music. The children will have the opportunity to compose their own work and perform in front of their peers. Year 4 will be taking part in the Listen2Me project and will be learning how to play as part of a Samba band. During the term, all children will develop their singing skills and learn different songs in both English and French.

As well as our daily assemblies, we will be looking at a range of different sacred writing in different religions and investigating stories from the Bible. We will be exploring how the Bible is important to Christians and investigating the concept and symbolism of Motherhood across different religions.

In PSHE we will be discussing feelings and what affects the way we feel and act. We will also discuss the importance of rules and expectations and set personal targets for academic and social development. We will explore rights and responsibilities in and outside of the classroom.

ICT is used in all subject areas when appropriate. Throughout the term, we will be developing and practising skills, including Internet safety. We will be using equipment and software to communicate ideas and information in a variety of ways. We will also be using the Internet to access information for different subject areas.

We will be continuing the French programme and would like to invite you to our French Café in November, Classes DC and LL on Wednesday, 20th November and Classes JA and SH on Thursday, 21st November, from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

We will also hold a parents' evening for Year 3 parents on Monday, 7th October, between 4pm to 6pm, to discuss how the transition from the Infant School to the Junior School has gone and how the children have settled. More information about both these events will follow nearer the time.

UPPER JUNIORS

This autumn term promises to be an exciting and challenging time in the Upper Juniors at Liss Junior School. We are starting with a transition project called *The School We'd Like*. This gives the children a hypothetical £5000 budget to identify one aspect of the school they'd like to improve which could benefit the whole school community. The children will work in groups before pitching to their class. The winning pitch from each class will be presented to the school with the possibility of the school winner entering a national competition where the prize is £5000 to make the project a reality.

The children will experience an hour of Literacy every day. The range of texts to be covered includes Shakespeare (we will be looking at Macbeth in some detail), retelling classic stories in a modern setting, planning and writing a disaster story, biographies and autobiographies of a famous Ancient Greek figure. In the second half of term we will study newspaper articles, reports and playscripts. We will be using these texts chiefly to fulfil the comprehension and composition objectives outlined in the Primary Framework for English. However, they are also a medium through which to teach the sentence and word level aspects. Grammar and punctuation will begin with some revision of previous work and move into a study of connective words, complex sentences, more sophisticated punctuation and active and passive verbs. Alongside the phonics, spelling and vocabulary objectives covered within the context of the Literacy Hour, we plan to run spelling groups so that pupils can follow a programme specifically geared to their abilities. Once these classes are underway your child will take home spellings to learn each week. Your support with this learning would be most beneficial. Reading and extended writing opportunities occur in addition to the prescribed hour. The



children are expected to read regularly and widely and to record this work on a record card.

Our Mathematics programme is organised into a series of blocks, which are revisited at a higher level each term. We begin with work on place value, the ordering and rounding of numbers and calculation before moving on to data handling, the study of measures and then shape and fractions later in the term. The children will also learn about the properties of numbers and develop their ability to solve 'real life' problems. They will be encouraged to use a calculator effectively, particularly to check their results.

Once again the children have a daily hour of this subject beginning with some mental work. It is important that pupils develop their mental agility, including quick recall of tables. Your support and encouragement with the practising of these skills would be most beneficial.

The Science topic is entitled Materials and Their Properties where the children will look at gases, dissolving, changing states and reversible and irreversible change.

The work in I.C.T is closely linked to the topics in other subject. We begin with a reminder of the importance of e-safety before the children create their own portfolios. The second half of term sees the children learning how ICT can be used to communicate information. This is put into practice using the Ancient Greeks as a stimulus.

If you have a computer at home your child might like to use it for some homework assignments or additional research. Please ask them to check with their teacher first.

The history topic for the autumn term is entitled the Ancient Greeks. We will look at how we can deduce evidence from ancient pots, compare the city states of Athens and Sparta, investigate the Ancient Olympics and examine the legacy that we have been left.

In R.E we cover a unit of work entitled 'The rules'. In this the children examine the different religions comparing and contrasting the rules that govern each religion. As we approach Christmas we will examine the two main birth narratives and investigate the similarities and differences.

Each week the classes have one period of gymnastics or dance and one period of games. The games for this term are Hockey, Football, Netball, Basketball and Rugby. Gymnastic activities will focus on movement at different levels and there is a dance unit entitled 'Theseus and the Minotaur', which fits in nicely with the Ancient Greek topic. Children are required to wear suitable clothing for physical activities. Please ensure that your child's P.E kit remains in school all week and that it includes a pair of trainers or plimsolls for outdoor activities.

For much of the term Art lessons will be linked to the history topic. Pupils will investigate Greek pots before creating their own. Design Technology involves a food project on bread. The children are taught about food hygiene, the nutritional value of bread and baking techniques. They will have an opportunity to taste different sorts of bread before designing and baking their own.

French lessons begin with some revision of the days of the week, the months of the year and the weather. We then go on to explore shopping and Christmas in France.

The theme for Music is leitmotifs. Pupils will be listening to the music of Holst before creating their own leitmotifs for Greek gods. As Christmas approaches we will be learning and performing songs associated with the carol service.

Please note the children in the Upper School receive regular homework. Everybody has a record book in which they note down the tasks and the number of nights given to complete them. Please let us know if any problems arise with the work set.

Finally, we are always grateful for adult help, both in the classroom and on school trips, so if you have a 'spare moment' don't hesitate to contact the school.