



The Abbey Primary School

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5th January 2018

Lower Key Stage 2 – Topic Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the new school term. We hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and a relaxing break.

What will we be learning this term?

Year 3

This term the Year 3 topic is 'Let's go on an adventure. Would we like to visit Guatemala?' This unit is Science and DT based unit. In our Science work we will learn all about forces including pushes and pulls, friction and air resistance. We will have the opportunity to design and make Mayan God puppets. We will develop our understanding of where Guatemala is and what the country is like. In History, we will look back to find out when and why the Mayan people left their cities. Throughout all learning this term, the children will be focussing on the Abbey Skills unit 'Becoming a better learner.' this enables them to develop the essential skills such as taking responsibility for successes and when things go wrong, resilience and setting targets and goals.

Year 4

This term the Year 4 topic is 'Should we stop eating chocolate?' This unit is Science and DT based unit. Our learning will involve the story of chocolate, where it came from and understanding the climate where cocoa trees grow. We will carry out a design and technology project which will include market research, product development, creating and making chocolate bars, analysing and improving them and creating packaging. In Science, we will be doing work about materials. We will learn about dissolving, reversible and irreversible changes and the effect of eating chocolate on our teeth. We will also visit Cadbury World for our School trip. Throughout all learning this term, the children will be focussing on the Abbey Skills unit "Becoming a better learner." This enables them to develop the essential skills such as taking responsibility for successes and when things go wrong, resilience and setting targets and goals.

Headteacher: Mrs Renuka Popat B.Ed Hons., NPQH

What will your child need at school?

In KS2 we encourage the children to be independent and responsible for their own belongings and their learning. All children need to have their reading book, reading record and homework diary in school every day. All classes will have PE for an hour, twice a week and we recommend their PE kit is in school every day this needs to include a house coloured or white T-shirt, black PE shorts and either plimsolls or trainers as stated in the school dress code. As the cold weather continues, they will also need suitable clothing for outdoor PE . Homework needs to be completed and handed in on time as shown in the table below, the tasks they are set will be recorded in their homework diary.

Subject	Day given out	Due in
My Maths	Monday	Thursday
English	Thursday	Monday

Topic Homework This will be given out at the end of a topic.

How can you help your child at home?

Now is a perfect time to make a New Year target with your child to help them to succeed with their learning. This could be reading more frequently at home, use Timestables Rockstars to improve their recall of times table and division facts, to complete their My Maths homework, to learn their year group spellings or something which is more relevant to your child. Regular support and encouragement at home will allow the children to share their success. If your child achieves something great at home then please let us know so we can also celebrate this in the classroom. The children should be able to talk to you about what they have been learning and explain in detail how they have been doing this. Any opportunities for the children to apply their learning outside of school are beneficial.

Reading – you can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax all you need is a book.

This term we are reminding all children that they have access to the Active Learn website where they can find a wealth of online reading books, they can find their Username on their password card. The school code is jmkj and their password is their class name. If you have any problems logging in then please speak to your child's class teacher. This is a fantastic resource and also provides the children with comprehension questions about the text they have read. As soon as the children have finished their allocate books if they inform their class teacher further books can be set. As a school we have invested in a lot of new books and hope the children will be inspired to read a range of texts. We expect the children to read regularly at home (3 times a week to an adult) and their reading record will be checked on a weekly basis by their class teacher. As well as listening to the children read it is also beneficial to ask the children questions about what they have read to ensure they have a clear understanding at the forthcoming TLC meetings we will be sharing a bookmark with you to help with questions to ask when reading. We also recommend that the children read a range of texts including newspapers, magazines, online articles, and e-books as well as their school reading book.

Where can I find further information?

Our Year group blogs will be updated with pictures and video clips of what your child has been getting up to in school.

Also the school website www.abbeyprimary.co.uk provides curriculum information about your child's year group.

Important Diary Dates

Monday 8th January 2018 – School led clubs start

Wednesday 17th January 2018 – Year 3 UoN drama workshop

Wednesday 17th January 2018 – Walk in Wednesday – Year 4 (In Hall)

Friday 19th January 2018 – Year 4 UoN drama workshop

Wednesday 24th January 2018– Walk in Wednesday – Year 3 (In Hall)

Wednesday 31st January 2018 – Year 4 trip to Cadbury World

Wednesday 7th February 2018 – Friends Valentines Disco 5.00-6.00pm

Friday 9th February 2018 - School closes for Half Term

If you have any questions regarding our topic work and homework please speak to your child's Class teacher at the end of the school day. We are more than happy to help!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Benjamin
Lower Key Stage 2 Coordinator