

Phase 3 Newsletter Spring Term



Happy New Year! We hope you all had a healthy and restful Christmas break. May we take this opportunity to thank you for the cards and presents - we were very touched. As usual, this newsletter will outline information for the coming term. Please keep this letter to hand as, unlike the younger phases, there is no weekly note. Any new information you need will be passed on through the children - this encourages independence and organisational skills. We will also continue to send additional information via Parentpay, should we feel we need to.

Theme for the Term

This term we will be learning about the **Stone Age** and how it fits into the historical period from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We will explore how people lived, including their homes and how they hunted for food. We will find out about the discoveries made which helped shape the stone age, bronze age and iron age. We will start the topic by watching the Dreamwork Animation film 'The Croods'.



Alongside this, we will be learning about **tectonic plates, continental drift, volcanoes and earthquakes**. We will learn about how the earth is made up of plates and how the movement of these plates has created the continents we know today. We will find out how volcanoes and earthquakes happen and learn about some of the famous volcanoes and earthquakes.



Our **art** will focus on looking at the **Lascaux Cave Paintings** (<https://www.bradshawfoundation.com/lascaux/>) and developing techniques in charcoal to create our own cave paintings.

In **DT** we will be exploring **frame structures** to make simple wheeled vehicles which may have been invented in the bronze age.

In **English**, we will particularly be thinking about **diary writing** and looking at the features of this particular type of writing. We will continue with our daily '**Vocab Ninja**' sessions, where we learn a new word each day and challenge ourselves to write a sentence using the word as well as use it throughout our other work during the week. The number of new words we learn over the course of the term is impressive and the children are always keen to get as many as they can in their daily sentences. We will also continue with our **SPAG** work (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and learn about how to use language such as fronted adverbials and noun phrases and punctuation such as speech marks and commas.

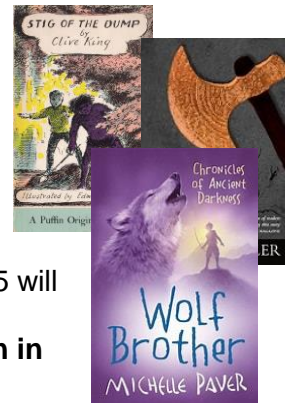


We will be enjoying some **novels** linked to the theme of the stone age. These books will also be the basis of some of our **guided reading** sessions as we explore the stories, make predictions and respond to what we have heard.

Year 4 will be reading **Stig of the Dump** by Clive King and **The Boy with the Bronze Axe** by Kathleen Fidler.

Year 5 and 6 will be reading **The Boy with the Bronze Axe** by Kathleen Fidler and **Wolf Brother** by Michelle Paver.

In **RE** Year 4 will be exploring **why different festivals are important**. Year 5 will be exploring the question **'If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?'** and year 6 will be exploring if it is **better to express your religion in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity**.



The whole school focus for our **PSHE** will be **goals and aspirations**. Year 4 will be exploring how to build resilience and how to bounce back from disappointments to continue striving for our goals. Year 5 will develop on this to think about how their hopes and dreams compare to others from different cultures. Year 6 will explore how they can help others achieve their goals.

Our **PE** this term is **health related exercise, hockey, dance and gymnastics**. Please ensure that **FULL PE** kit for both indoor and outdoor sessions is in school every week. Ideally, kits should remain in school until they are sent home to wash - this helps to ensure that children have the kit they need for each session.

This half term PE days will be:

For Year 4, Tuesday with Mr Holmes and Wednesday with Miss Havercroft.

For Year 5, Monday with Mrs Hiles and Wednesday with Miss Havercroft.

For Year 6 Wednesday with Miss Havercroft and Thursday with Mrs Carr

In **forest schools** this term we will be doing some activities linked to our topic on the stone age. These will include **fire building, cooking and den building**. Forest school kit may be kept in school for term or brought as and when it is needed.



Sessions will not be every week but all classes will spend several sessions over the term in the forest. The children will be told when they need their forest kit.

Homework

The aim of homework is to practise key skills as well as developing organisational skills, discipline and independence. Please support your child by encouraging them to develop a routine of when they do each activity and when to hand it in.



Reading

All children should be reading as often as possible. A few minutes each day is ideal - anything more is a bonus! As your child becomes more fluent, they may be reluctant to read aloud. Please still encourage them to spend time reading, talk to them about the story, characters, favourite parts etc and ask

them to read a small amount aloud to you to give you a taste of what they are reading. Please record in your child's planner when they have read.

Maths

Maths homework each week will be set on TTRockstars. Times tables recall is an important foundational skill in maths and it is important that children can quickly recall times tables facts up to 12 x 12. TTRockstars is a fun but extremely effective way of helping children develop their recall and speed.



In Year 4, the children take a statutory times table test in the summer term, with results reported to the Local Education Authority. In school, we regularly work on times tables knowledge and recall, but spending time on TTRockstars at home supports the work we are doing in school. If it is difficult for your child to spend time on TTRockstars at home, Mr Sharpe runs a TTRockstars club on a Thursday lunchtime each week, where children can spend time on the game.

Spelling

As a school, we are introducing a new spelling scheme to help teach different spelling strategies. You will notice some changes to spelling homework over this term as the new scheme is introduced.

Topic

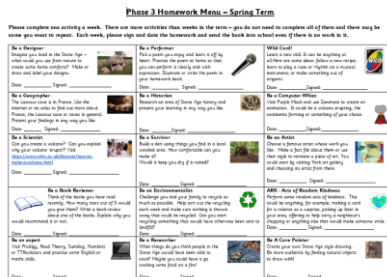
A new homework menu will be sent home this week. As usual, please encourage your child to choose an activity each week to complete. The activities are open-ended and are designed so that children can approach them in a way they enjoy and choose how much time they would like to spend on the activities.

Homework can be recorded in the homework book or can be photographed or videoed but may also be a purely practical activity. Whatever your child does each week, please sign and date the menu and send the homework book back each week.

Homework	Goes home	Hand in
Reading	Daily	Daily
Maths	Monday	Monday
Topic/menu	Wednesday	Monday

Parent Consultations

This term's parent/carer consultations will be on Tuesday 15th February (3.30-7pm) and Thursday 17th February (3.30-5.30pm). More information about how to make an appointment will be sent out nearer the time.



If you have any questions in the meantime, please email your child's class teacher:

Year 4 - rcarr@lordderamos.com

Year 5 - hiles@lordderamos.com

Year 6 - hsmith@lordderamos.com

Visit to Bradford

This term, we are hoping to organise a visit to the Bradford Interfaith and Diversity Education Centre to learn more about different faiths and visit some places of worship. We are looking forward to experiencing the culture and beliefs of some other religions. More details will be sent once the visit is finalised.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 15th February	Parent/carer Consultations (3.30-7.00pm)
Thursday 17th February	Parent Consultations (3.30-5.30pm)
Friday 18th February	Non-Uniform Day School closes for Half term
Monday 28th February	School re-opens
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day
Tuesday 22nd March	Small group of Y6 girls and Mrs Lee at The Mount Hovercraft Day (more details to follow)
Monday 28th March	Diversity Week
Friday 1st April	International Celebration Event (3.00-5.30pm details to follow)
Thursday 7th April	Egg Decorating Day
Friday 8th April	School Closes for the Easter Break



As ever, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Rachel Carr Lydia Hiles Helen Smith

Emma Havercroft Julika Matravers Annette Lee

The Phase 3 Team