

We hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday. We are looking forward to an exciting term of activities.

#### Topic

This term, our Phase 2 topic is 'The Great Fire of London'. We will be learning about: London in the 1660s and today, what happened during the Great Fire and how we know, what led to so many houses burning down, how so many people survived, whether anything could have been done to slow the spread of the fire and about the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire.



We will be having a number of special visitors into school as part of our Great Fire of London topic. More information will be shared nearer the time as we don't want to spoil any surprises!

In art we will be developing our painting skills. We will be learning how to mix paints to create secondary colours as well as tints and tones and will be looking at the art work of Ron Embleton and David Best. We hope to have an art gallery session to share the children's work with you. In DT, we will learning about food and a healthy and varied diet.

During our Jigsaw lessons, we will be learning about Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me.

In RE, Year 2 will be learning about religious celebrations and Year 3 will be learning about prayer.

In science lessons, Year 2 children will be learning about materials and their uses whilst Year 3 will learn about rocks and, after half term, animals including humans.

In music, the children will continue to learn to play the ocarina and the recorder. Music lessons are taught by our music specialist, Mrs Martin.

Details of our curriculum and the topics we are covering in each area can be found on our school website: https://lordderamores.com/wpcontent/uploads/2022/07/Phase-2-LTP.pdf We are following Year A.

### Homework

A new homework menu will be emailed out via ParentPay and will also be available on the school website. The homework menu reflects the work we are doing in school and is designed to provide an opportunity for parents/carers to



talk about school activities with their child as well as to spark curiosity or interest about an aspect of learning.

There is no expectation that children will complete any/all of the items on the menu but we are always very happy to see and share any homework the children have completed.

Your child might be sent specific key skills to learn and / or practise at home. Year 2 have access to NumBots to practise number facts and Year 3 children have access to TTRockstars and Numbots. Later this term, we will give Year 2 children access to TTRockstars too. The children's passwords are in their planners.



### Reading

Please continue to read regularly with your child at home. **Frequently reading with and to an adult has a real impact on a children's reading ability**. Evidence shows that children need to be able to read at a rate of around 90 words per minute to read with real comprehension. Regular reading and rereading are the

keys to developing this.

Once children are no longer reading phonics reading books, reading regularly with an adult makes a real difference to fluency and comprehension. **Please** can the children bring their reading book and planner to school daily as we use these in reading lessons.

Children can change their library books daily. Each week, both classes have a library sessions where they take part in a book club, hear a story and have the chance to change their book:

Year 2: Thursday

Year 3: Wednesday

## Lost Property

Every term we have an enormous amount of unnamed lost property. This is sorted through regularly and clothes which are named are handed back to their owners. Please check that **all** your child's clothes / shoes / PE kit / bags/water bottles etc. are named.

### **Forest Schools**

Please can all children have their kit in school each week as we will be going into the forest in all kinds of weather. Please do speak to us if you have any questions.

Year 2 will have forest school on:

Monday 15th January,22nd January, 29th January and 5th February. As the first half term is short and we miss a Monday, we will also do an extra session on Monday 19th February.



Year 3 will have forest schools every Thursday for the first half term.

## PE

Our PE sessions will continue to run on a two weekly cycle. Please can the children keep their full kit, as detailed in the planner, in school. If you have any difficulties, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

# **Dates for Diaries**

Parent consultation: Monday 5th and Thursday 8th February School closes for half term: end of school Friday 9th February Schools reopens at usual time: Monday 19th February Maths workshop: Wednesday 21st February @8:45 - 9:30 World Book Day (dress up as a character): Thursday 7th March School closes for Easter: Friday 22nd March

Thank you, as ever, for all your on-going support. If you wish to see us about any aspect of your child's life in school, please email us using the addresses below or telephone the office. Please note that we do not always have time to check emails in the morning before the start of school – do phone if it is urgent.

mmccormack@lordderamores.com lhiles@lordderamores.com agulliver@lordderamores.com bcharters@lordderamores.com

Best wishes,

The Phase 2 Team