

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.

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.



History	We will cover British prehistory from the Stone Age to the Roman conquest which began in 43 BCE marking the end of the Iron Age. It includes the resettlement of Britain by humans after the last Ice Age, during the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods of the Stone Age, the transition from hunter gathering to agriculture during the Neolithic period of the Stone Age and life during the Bronze and Iron ages. We will also look at archaeological sites such as Stonehenge or Must Farm.
Geography	Tectonic plates, continental drift, volcanoes and earthquakes. How the earth is made up of plates and how the movement of these plates has created the continents we know today. How volcanoes and earthquakes happen and learn about some of the famous volcanoes and earthquakes. Grid references and how to read them to locate places and the importance of compass points.
Computing	Animation - using simple programs to create animations Coding - procedures, loops and nested loops. Online safety
PE	Health related fitness (circuits and activities which increase agility and raise the heart rate). Hockey – dribbling, hitting, tackling, simple games Gym – moving across, along and around equipment, developing and improving balancing skills.
PSHE	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.
Music	Y4 will continue to learn the violin and begin to read simple music. Y5 will learn more notes on the ukulele and learn to recognise different pitches. Y6 will explore both body and instrumental percussion.
French	Children will continue to use songs, games and activities to learn French words, phrases and sentences linked to: Y4 parts of the face and body; Y5 going to market, food and numbers; Y6 cafes and our home town

Art	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 and pictures of volcanoes.
RE	Y4 will be learning about the importance of festivals. They will learn about festivals celebrated in different religions e.g. Easter and Eid and make comparisons between them. Y5 will be exploring the importance of places of worship to different faiths. They will explore why people go to places of worship and how they can help people of faith. Y6 will explore examples of religious creativity (buildings and art). They will explore why people value sacred buildings and art and examine the opinion that charitable giving is more important to some people.
DT	In DT we will be exploring frame structures to make simple wheeled vehicles which may have been invented in the bronze age.
Science	Year 4 will be studying states of matter (solids, liquids and gases) and how they behave and change. They will also be studying how sounds are made, measured and changed. Year 5's topic is materials, looking at changes, both reversible and irreversible as well as separating materials through filtering and sieving. Year 6 will be learning about evolution and adaptation, including genes and inheritance as well as investigating how and why things change.
English	In English, we will particularly be thinking about diary writing and information texts and looking at the features of this particular type of writing. We will continue with 'Vocab Ninja' sessions, where we learn a new word each week and challenge ourselves to write a sentence using the word as well as use it throughout our other work. We will be reading Stig of the Dump by Clive King.
Maths	We will continue to follow the Power Maths Scheme with topics as follows: Y4 – multiplication and division involving two and three digit numbers, length and perimeter, fractions larger than 1, adding and subtracting fractions, decimals – tenths and hundredths, Y5 – adding and subtracting fractions, multiplication and division of 3 and 4 digit numbers, decimals and percentages, perimeter and area and using tables and graphs Y6 – ratio and proportion, algebra, decimals up to 1000 and multiplying and dividing decimals, percentages, area, perimeter and volume.
Forest	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.

We are hoping to visit a new exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum - Star Carr - a Stone Age settlement found in North Yorkshire.

Forest and PE days



Year Group	PE days	Forest Day
Year 4	Tuesday and Thursday	Friday
Year 5	Monday and Tuesday	Monday
Year 6	Monday and Tuesday	Friday



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.

Homework

The purpose of homework is to encourage independent learning and to practise skills taught in school. We recognise that families and children are busy both after school and the weekends and so we endeavour to keep homework to a minimum. The activities we ask children to do are open ended and so those who wish to take their home learning further are free to do so.

Research shows that the most effective homework at primary age are activities that practise key skills such as reading and number facts/times tables recall.

Details of the homework is as follows:

Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10-15 mins daily. ● Any reading material. ● Some time reading aloud to an adult. ● Chat about what they have read. ● Tick the reading record. ● Children to record their reading in the reading record.
Maths - Times tables and number facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 30 minutes a week. ● Numbots or TTRockstars or other online platforms (Tommy's Trek - Times Tables - Mathsframe, Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds (topmarks.co.uk) Times tables games - Timestables.co.uk) The alternative games do not have the timed element of TTRockstars and are more game based. ● End of unit recap activity sheet throughout the term.
Menu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activity ideas/suggestions (please feel free to follow your own creative interest and share these too). ● Designed to be practical and promote discussion. ● Any work can be shared each week.

Parent Consultations

This term's parent/carer consultations will be on Monday 3rd February (3.30-7pm) and Thursday 6th 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 - mrichards@lordderamores.com

Year 5 - rcarr@lordderamores.com kmcnichol@lordderamores.com

Year 6 - hsmith@lordderamores.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 7th January	School reopens for Spring Term
WB 27th January	Whole school STEM week
Monday 3rd February	Parent/carer Consultations (3.30-7.00pm)
Thursday 6th February	Parent Consultations (3.30-5.30pm)
Friday 17th February	School closes for Half term
Monday 24th February	School re-opens
Tuesday 25th February	Maths Parent Workshop (8.45am) - more details to follow
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Thursday 27th March & Friday 28th March	Y5 residential to Robin Hood's Bay
Thursday 3rd April	Easter craft Day
Friday 4th 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

Mark Richards

Rachel Carr

Katy McNichol

Helen Smith

Julika Matravers

Emma Havercroft

The Phase 3 Team