



Dear Parents,

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. We hope that you had a lovely break over Christmas and are ready to make 2025 a wonderful year! This is the work that the children will be covering over the following term in LKS2:

Geography:

We begin our new topic 'The Rainforest', a unit that will continue across the whole of our Spring Term. In the first half of the unit we will be learning about where rainforests are located, the type of wildlife living there, the different layers of the rainforest as well as being able to identify features such as the equator, tropics and hemispheres.



Art:

This half term we will be looking at the work of Henri Rousseau. We will use his art work to inspire us to draw our own jungle scenes. We will look at the form and shape of different plants and animals and learn to draw them in a step by step approach. We will also learn how to use watercolours correctly to create our jungle scene in layers.



Science:

Solids, liquids and gases are the basis for our learning this half term in Science. This unit will include investigations and practical activities to compare solids, liquids and gases and how they are made up. We will explore what makes up particles and in what forms they are practically found. We will also study 'The Water Cycle' and look at how the most important element to humans on Earth changes state.



PE:

In outdoor PE this term, the children will be continuing to develop their Send & Receive skills through a range of different sports. In indoor PE they will be creating movement sequences to music, in Dance.

PE days:

Woodpeckers: Wednesday and Friday
Swallows: Thursdays and Fridays
Starlings: Tuesday and Thursday

RE:

In RE we will be learning about Islam. We will focus on how festivals and worship show what matters to Muslims. We will be learning about the five pillars of Islam, why prayer is important to Muslims, what a mosque is like, as well as why Muslims celebrate Ramadan.



PSHE:

In PSHE this half term, our unit is Living in the Wider World. We will learn the reasons for rules and laws, understand that there are human rights, about the relationship between rights and responsibilities as well as understanding ways in which the internet and social media can be used both positively and negatively.

Computing:

In Computing, we will be developing our knowledge of Computer Science. We will be learning how to code using apps such as Scratch and program the Loti Bots to follow directions and create 2D shapes.



Music:

In Chair Drumming, we will be accompanying Queen, Abba and Bob Marley. To develop as readers of music, we will be revising 1, 2 and 4 beat rhythms and learning to read 1 beat of silence. Our topic related songs are the World War II songs of Vera Lynn and the big band sound of Glenn Miller.



Please ensure your child is always fully prepared for the school day with their school bag, reading record & reading book, homework, and anything else they may have been asked to bring in.



Home Learning:

- Read at home for 15-20 minutes every day
- Practice spellings
- Learn times tables (Y2)
- Create one example from the half termly project list



Home Reading: Please ensure that your child reads 5 times a week

Reading Challenge

5 x= Green

2/3/4= Yellow

0/1= Red



If your child achieves green for the week, they will be entered into a special prize draw!

Only books that children take home from school will go towards the reading challenge – either the home reader or a book from the 100 Book Challenge. This will ensure that your child is reading books appropriate for their ability.

Twitter Pages

Each class has a Twitter page which is updated regularly. You can see all the exciting things we have been getting up to in school and how hard the children are working. Please follow us to keep updated!
@GatesWoodpecker
@GatesStarlings
@GatesSwallows



Seesaw is an app we use to track your child's learning and progress throughout the year. We will send out additional information on how you can view your children's work as well as how to use this app to share WOW moments from home with us in school.