

# Lower Juniors



## Spring 2 Term

We have had a great start to the spring term in Lower Juniors. The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about electricity and having hands on fun with circuits. They then applied their knowledge of electricity and made light up signs.

We also loved learning all about the history of our fabulous town and were amazed to find out about the people who lived here before us.



This term we continue with our Urban Pioneer theme and explore the Iron Man and magnets, amongst many other interesting topics.

We have noticed a small dip in the number of children completing their homework tasks and a rise in the number of children forgetting their PE kit. We ask that you look at the information below so that we can work together to ensure that children have everything they need for school and a great start with their reading and times tables.

### Homework:

We ask that your child reads every day at home for at least 5 minutes. In addition, we ask that your child practices their times tables on Times Table Rockstars for at least 5 minutes per day. We have found that children progress more when they practice a little bit every day rather than for a long time all at once.



### Boom Reader:

Please ensure you are logging all of your child's reading on Boom Reader. If you need any help with this, please let us know.

In order for your child to make as much progress as possible, we expect them to read every day. It is better to read little and often rather than rarely and at length.



### PE kit and Uniform:

Children need their PE kit in school **every day**. The PE kit should contain the following items: navy shorts, Speenhamland PE t-shirt, navy trousers, navy jumper and trainers. Also spare socks, hairbands and earring tape.

Please ensure everything is very clearly named so nothing goes missing.

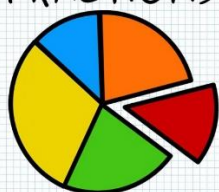
### Maths (Year 3):

This term, year 3 will continue with length and perimeter before moving on to fractions. They will finish the term with Mass and Capacity.

### Maths (Year 4):

This term, year 4 will continue length, perimeter and then fractions. They will finish the term with their first look at decimals.

FRACTIONS



### English:

**Genre: Science fiction. Purpose: To entertain. and to speculate about the future. Unit: The Iron Man.**

This half term we link our writing directly to 'The Iron Man' and create a story about an Iron Woman who stomps across the school playground. We will make appropriate choices regarding the use of pronouns and expand noun phrases with modifying adjectives and prepositional phrases.

### Science:

Our unit this term is forces and magnets. Children will be able to identify that a force is a push or a pull. They will be able to identify that objects need forces to move them. They will learn that magnets have 2 poles and that opposite poles attract like poles repel. They will learn which materials are attracted to magnets and which ones aren't. Children will be focusing on their skills of observing, measuring and recording through investigations and practical enquiry. Children will be able to make careful and systematic observations, gather and record data and take accurate measurements.



<p><b>Geography:</b> During this term, pupils will undertake a country study of Brazil. They will look at the economic geography linked to the area and relate to rich and poor countries within Brazil. They will then link this knowledge to migration and shanty towns.</p> 	<p><b>RE:</b> Pupils will build on previous Easter enquiries of Christianity, making links to 'Agape' (love) from previous learning in that Christians believe that Jesus selflessly gave himself for their salvation.</p> 	<p><b>Music:</b> This term, <u>Maple</u> will be taking part in African steel pan lessons. During this, they will learn about the different types of steel pans and how they are played.</p> <p>This term, <u>Hawthorn and Juniper</u> will be using our music programme, Charanga to learn to sing <i>Lean on me</i> in the style of Gospel. They will appraise music and learn and apply technical vocabulary including pulse, rhythm and melody.</p>
<p><b>PSHE:</b> In this Puzzle, the children learn about the importance of exercise and how it helps your body to stay healthy. They also learn about their heart and lungs, what they do and how they are very important. We discover facts about calories, fat and sugar and are very excited to be having an Eat Well workshop on this topic. The children learn about different types of drugs: the ones you take to make you better, as well as other drugs. They consider things, places and people that are dangerous and link this to strategies for keeping themselves safe.</p> 	<p><b>PE:</b> This half term, the focus will be on dance and performing a range of different movement patterns. Our pupils will develop their flexibility, strength, control and technique while moving in different ways depending on the tempo of the song. A class dance will be created using the theme of Space.</p> <p><b>Computing:</b> In computing this term, we look at writing for different text types. We will create digital writing and be able to format font, size, layout, underlining, bold, italic to aid different text types.</p> <p><b>French Year 3:</b> Portraits – In this unit, children will understand, name and write colours and parts of the body. They will start to identify nouns and adjectives as well as explore masculine and feminine. They will describe facial features in first and third person.</p>	<p><b>Art:</b> Print- During this unit, the children will complete an artist study on Andy Warhol and his use of print in his art work, reflecting on the impact this has in art. The children will explore and create their own motifs, before using this design to create prints. Children will use both carbon paper and polystyrene tiles to create their prints.</p>  <p><b>French Year 4:</b> <u>Vive le sport! - Our sporting lives</u> In this unit, children talk about sports, choosing the correct verb. They learn the names of foods and write sentences about things that are good and bad for health. They extend their sentences on healthy lifestyles.</p>

**Year 4 multiplication check:**

After Easter, the year 4 children will complete this Statutory check. The purpose of the check is to determine whether your child can fluently recall their times tables up to 12, **which is essential for future success in mathematics**. It is an on-screen check consisting of 25 times table questions. Your child will be able to answer 3 practice questions before taking the actual check. As part of usual practice, we ask that you continue to practise times tables regularly with your child.

You can find out more information here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1116420/2023\\_Information\\_for\\_parents\\_Multiplication\\_tables\\_check\\_Nov\\_22\\_PDFA.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1116420/2023_Information_for_parents_Multiplication_tables_check_Nov_22_PDFA.pdf)