



KING'S LANDER
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Maple Class Newsletter

Spring Term: January – March 2025

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! The children appear to have settled back well and look ready to get back to work. It is really important that we all manage to get into school regularly, with the aim of increasing our attendance compared to the autumn term.

We again have a number of exciting activities scheduled for this term. In January we will have a series of lessons with Active Sefton on Healthy Habits. This should help consolidate our work on online safety from last term's Computing lessons. At the beginning of February, Year 3 will visit Kings Leadership Academy Hawthornes to partake in dodgeball with Year 4 and towards the end of the term, we will be visiting the Philharmonic Hall for a special performance by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. More details will be available closer to the time.

English and Maths

We will begin the term by focusing on 'length' before moving onto 'mass'. Despite the topics moving on from addition and subtraction and multiplication and division, the children will be working hard on learning their times tables and will be asked to practise them at home regularly. After the topic of 'volume', time will be spent consolidating the children's knowledge of all topics covered so far before we carry out a mid-year assessment.

The stimulus for lots of our English work at the start of this term are the books "The Rhythm of the Rain" by Grahame Baker-Smith and "Jemmy Button" by Valerio Vidali. We will be writing a setting narrative and an information leaflet before half term and a return narrative and some letters after the half term break, as well as focusing on key aspects of spelling, grammar and punctuation. In addition to this, the children will continue to have a separate spelling lessons so that they make as much progress as possible in these essential areas of English. We will continue to choose reading books using the Accelerated Reading Scheme. We recently completed a new online assessment and the children have a new ZPD. We will continue to take online assessments regularly and ZPDs will continue to change. The children will still be expected to make notes in their reading journal as they read.

Science

Our new Science topics for this term will be "Light" and "Animals including Humans". During our Light topic, we will answer questions such as: "How do mirrors work?" and "What is a shadow?" Our topic on "Animals" will include questions such as "How do living things get energy?" and "What do we need to eat?" The children will have plenty of opportunities to take part in practical experiments associated with these topics.

Other Subjects

Our History topic this half term will be "The Indus Valley" and our topic after half term is called "Persia and Greece". We will be continuing to learn about different ancient civilisations and looking for similarities and differences between them. In Geography our topics will be "Settlements" and "Agriculture" and in RE our first topic will be called "Living with Hindu Traditions" where we will look at Hinduism today after learning so much Hindu beliefs last term. After the half term holiday, we will be leaving Hinduism behind and our new topic will be called "The Hebrew Bible – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob". The children spotted plenty of

links between the different lessons last term and they will hopefully notice even more as the year progresses, as the three schemes have been specifically written to complement each other and therefore consolidate the children's understanding in all three subjects. We will continue to use laptops and iPads regularly to aid our learning in a range of subjects and we will continue to work on coding in computing. The children are very excited to be partaking in swimming as part of the PE curriculum this term. These sessions will be every Wednesday afternoon for the term, with the other PE day being on Tuesday. Please make sure that full school indoor and outdoor PE kit is in school on Monday and it should not go home until Friday, and that children have appropriate swimming attire - one piece swimsuit, swimming cap and a towel. Children are advised not to wear earrings on swimming days. If they do, they must be earrings your child can easily remove for swimming activity. The children will also continue to learn to play the ukelele during music, which they looked forward to every Thursday.

Homework

Regular homework will continue to be set via Google Classroom. It is also important your child regularly visits TT rockstars, as well as reads regularly at home and please continue to hear them read at home on a regular basis. This is just as important in Key Stage 2 as it is in Key Stage 1.

As always, please come and see us if you have any questions, or anything you would like to discuss. The Year 3 drop in day is every Monday until 4pm. If you require a different time, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support and let's look forward to a fantastic year!

Mr Wales