



Derwentwater Primary School | Friday 17th September 2021

Message from Mrs Gardner

Please view the year group **Topic Webs** to see what your child will be learning this term. We have changed the format, revised the content and made them termly rather than half termly. The topic webs are supported by the Cornerstone Curriculum Knowledge Organisers which give further details about the projects taught. These will be shared via email and available to view on the school website. Feedback from parents is vital so please share your views about what works well and what could be better so we can continue to make improvements and work together to support the children.

The school's **Home Learning approach** is currently being reviewed. There are a range of parental views on homework and how much is deemed as appropriate. Research indicates that homework has little impact at primary level and as a result our school has adopted a view that it is more valuable to spend quality time with family, reading, telling stories; having free time for play, relaxation, exercise, walks, swimming and cooking.

Children learn a great deal throughout the day and we do not want home life to be unnecessarily pressured or burdensome due to home learning expectations. We want our children to enjoy their childhood and their family time, to read for pleasure and talk to you about their learning and interests at school. Home learning at Derwentwater will currently centre around daily reading which does have an impact on progress; with weekly spelling and times tables practice to continue as before. We want you to feel reassured that we are preparing your children for life beyond primary school by delivering an excellent education that will develop their skills, knowledge and character; giving them the confidence and ambition to succeed after they leave us. Further details will be shared in our home learning policy later in the term.

Year 1

We have had a brilliant week in Year 1 as we are starting to settle into our new timetables and routines. It is amazing to see how independent the children are getting in their learning. We are also so proud of how friendly and kind our classes have been as they welcomed some new faces.

We have spent lots of time this week sorting, representing and ordering numbers and really enjoyed the book *Avocado baby!* We introduced our new project about childhood and would love it if you could send in some pictures of the children as babies. Homework has been sent out-please can this be filled in and returned by Thursday latest!

Year 2

What an amazing week we've had! The children started learning about influential activists in History this week. They watched a short video about Mala Yousafzai and made notes on their white boards. They then decorated Malala's pocket, recorded four important facts about her on pencils and then placed them in her colourful pocket. Later, they designed their own 'Historical site' plaque to record significant details about her.



Website:



www.derwentwaterschool.com

Contact:



020 8992 9196

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Email:



parentcomms@derwentwater.ealing.sch.uk

Thank you to all those parents who continue to support their children with their daily reading. It is imperative that children read to an adult or older sibling every day and return their yellow reading logs to be signed by the teacher the following day. Next week, the children will be visiting the school library and choosing a book of their choice to share with you. We will also be sending spelling and Maths homework with your child. Could the children please return their homework on FRIDAY.

Year 3

This week in year 3 we have been looking at features of a letter. We have been understanding how to lay out letters and also how to write them. We are really enjoying the book Flat Stanley and have started to write letters based on two characters in the book.

In the playground we have all been practising how to be kind and ways in which we can help outside of school too. We showed this through creating our own act of kindness hands which we will display in our classrooms. Overall, we had a fun and interesting week in year 3.



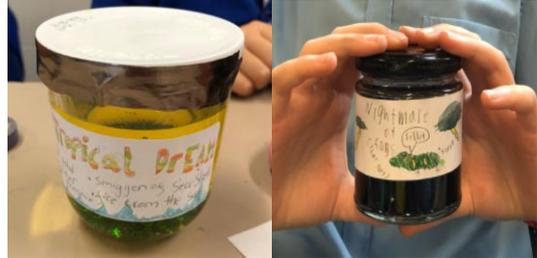
Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed their first swimming lesson and are looking forward to their next one! It was great to see how confident they were getting in the pool. Please remember to bring in your swimming kit each Wednesday. This should include a swimming costume or trunks, a towel, a swimming cap and optional swimming goggles. Students can also bring a healthy snack to have after their lesson.

Year 4 will have P.E every Friday so students should come to school on Friday in their P.E kit. Year 4 students have also been keeping active this week with the daily mile!

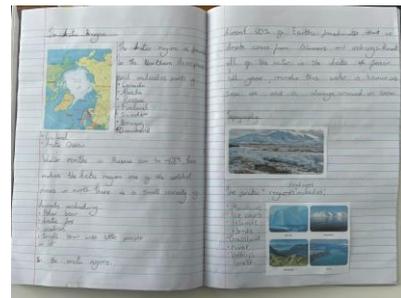
Year 5

This week, students made dream jars. They had plan if they were going to make a golden phizzwizzrd (nice dream) or a trogglehumper (nightmare). Students selected some very curious ingredients, such as: dash of terror, slice of the moon, mice tails and petals from a dead rose. Next week, students will begin writing a set of instructions on how to make the perfect dream.



Year 6

Year 6 have been exploring the Polar regions as we start our Frozen Kingdoms project. This region includes the Arctic and Antarctic. They've explored topography, climate, wildlife, vegetation and humans in each area and written a brilliant information text.



Did you know

temperatures as low as -70°C have been recorded in northern Greenland, which is in the Arctic circle. BRRRR! Ask your child to tell you their favourite fact



Website: www.derwentwaterschool.com 020 8992 9196



Contact: twitter



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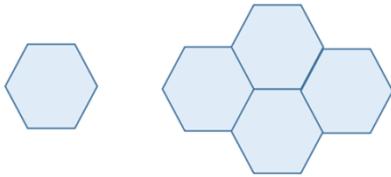
Email:

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Maths

One of our aims as a school this year is to continue to raise attainment levels in maths across the school by using the Maths Mastery approach. We will again be focussing on the use of concrete resources/pictorial representations in lessons as well as reasoning questions. Reasoning and problem solving are two of the main aims of the national curriculum so it is vital that we teach our children how to approach these challenging style questions. In class, we help students by teaching them the appropriate vocabulary and providing them with sentence stems. Here is an example of a problem solving question students in KS2 may encounter.

The perimeter of the regular hexagon is 30 cm. Four of these hexagons are put together to make the shape on the right. What is the perimeter of the shape?



Reading

We love hearing where and when our students love to read around the school. This week, pupils from Year 4 have shared their favourite places and times to read.



“I enjoy reading first thing in the morning.” Adam, 4 Maple



“I like reading outside and during playtime.” Andrea, 4 Maple



Congratulations to Ethan in 2 Opal who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge organised by Acton Library.

Reading Records

Thank you to everyone who has completed the yellow reading records and supported their child with daily reading at home.

Please remember children should read for at least 15 minutes each day and their reading should be recorded in the yellow reading log which should be brought into school every day.

Staffing

We welcomed new staff to our team last week who have begun to support and teach children across the school.

Teaching Assistants, Varinder Singh and Sharondelle Downs, are supporting across key stage 2.

Sports Coaches from Shooting Starz, Bojan Zunic and Ronan Brown, teach PE in most classes.

PPA teacher, Phillip Barrett, is based in key stage 2.

Music teacher from Sing Education, Anna Parrish, teaches children from nursery to year 6.

Governor Vacancies - Are you interested?

We welcome the whole of our community to consider this valued role in ensuring school provides quality education and opportunities for all pupils. We currently have 2 vacancies. Please consider joining our fabulous team of governors. Email parentcomms to find out more and/or to share an expression of interest.

Secondary School Applications and Visits

Year 5 and 6 parents should attend the secondary school open evenings to help decide on their child's secondary school choices. A previous email was shared with the links below. Flyers from local secondary schools will also be sent home with children. The links below take you to guidance and the application. It is crucial that applications are completed before the deadline to avoid disappointment.

Application:

[Start high school in September 2022 | Apply for a high school place](#)

Prospectus:

<https://viewer.joomag.com/high-school-prospectus-2022/0579981001629885520?short&>

Website:



www.derwentwaterschool.com

Contact:



twitter



@Dwaterw3

Email:



parentcomms@derwentwater.ealing.sch.uk

Furniture Move - Help Needed

After setting up classrooms and offices we need to move furniture from the top and middle floors downstairs. If you can volunteer some time and muscle next Friday between 9.30am and 10.30am to help our caretaker, Abdul, we would greatly appreciate it. Please message in to Parentcomms or call the school office if you can be of assistance. Many thanks in advance.

Uniform



You can order uniform online to be delivered to the school office free of charge or delivered to your home for a standard postage fee.

Website:

www.schoolbellsuniforms.co.uk

Contact Number: 0208 577 6656

Office Communication and New Postbox



Please continue to use parentcomms or to call the school with queries. A red postbox has been set up on the corner wall near the office so parents can deliver correspondence such as slips without needing to come into the main office. We hope this saves parents time and avoids congestion in the foyer.

Laptop Return



Most laptops have been returned. If you still have a school laptop at home, can you please return it as soon as possible. The laptops will be put to good use at school and will be available for remote learning

when necessary.

Counselling support



The Space



Sometimes we could all do with someone to talk to. If you would like to meet with Helen for a confidential and non-judgemental chat about you, your child, or any other worries, she is available on Tuesdays 9 - 10am.

All meetings with adults will currently take place online or over the phone due to COVID19. Call, text or email Helen on 07429 654584 or email hthorp4.307@lgflmail.org.uk

INCLUSION

TOP TIPS FOR DEVELOPING SPEECH SOUNDS



from Ealing's Speech & Language Therapy Department.

If you would like more Speech and Language tips and advice, please visit their Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/SLTEaling>

Childline

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Childline are there for you all day and all night. You can talk to them about anything. No problem is too big or too small.



Covid Test Site

Michael Flanders

Church Lane

Acton, W3 8PP

7 days a week

8am-8pm

Call 119 to book a test if you have symptoms.

Website:



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Email:



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Dates for your diary

2021 to 2022

AUTUMN 1

Monday 6th September to Friday 22nd October

HALF TERM Monday 25th to Friday 29th October

AUTUMN 2

Tuesday 2nd November to Friday 17th December
(school closes at 2pm)

SPRING 1

Wednesday 5th January to Friday 11th February

HALF TERM Monday 14th February to Friday 18th
February

SPRING 2

Monday 21st February to Friday 1st April (school
closes at 2pm)

SUMMER 1

Tuesday 19th April to Friday 27th May

HALF TERM Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June

SUMMER 2

Monday 6th June to Friday 22nd July (school
closes at 2pm)

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