

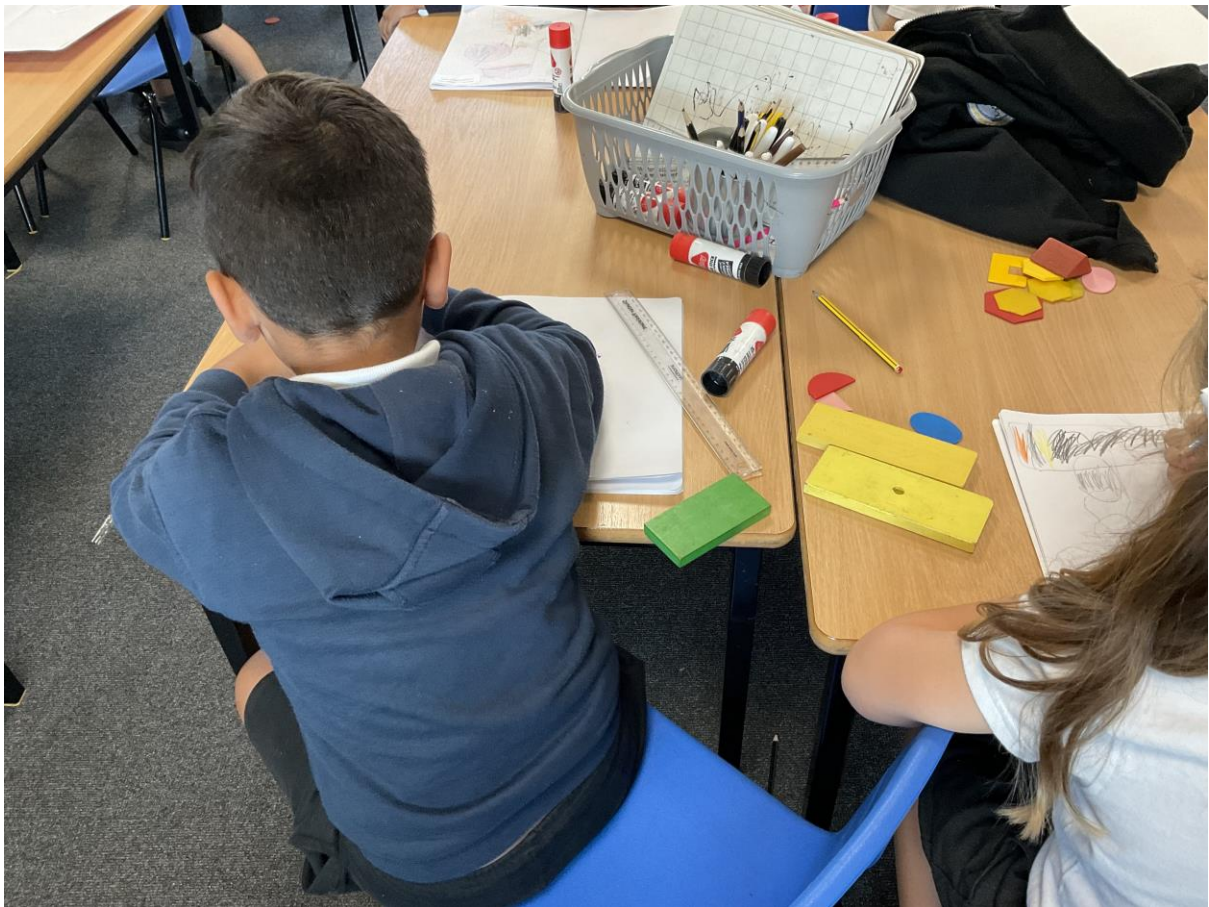


## Rickley Park Newsletter - March 2024

Welcome to the second half of spring term! Although a shorter half term, there is plenty going on across the school so please continue to read the information below and keep an eye out for Facebook or MCAS communications.

*Mrs Nicole Bramwell - Headteacher at Rickley Park*

## In This Issue



- **News Update:**
  - **Parking**
  - **Homework**
  - **Ramadan**
- **Learning this Term**
- **Dates for your Diary**
- **Contact Us**

## Parking



Please can engines be turned off when parking in the drop-off zone. As children, siblings and families are queuing to enter school, they are being exposed to harmful exhaust fumes. Children **are particularly at risk because they have smaller lungs and breathe more rapidly**. Plus, children of all ages are at risk because their lungs and immune systems aren't fully developed until they are teenagers. Thank you for your support on this matter.

## Homework



Over these next couple of months, you may see some changes to homework for your child. This will be bespoke to their year group and may be in the form of a reading challenge or quiz to answer via their iPad. Information from each year group will be sent when an update is made. In the meantime, please continue with frequent reading at home and number practise via Numbots or TT Rockstars.

## Ramadan



### What is Ramadan?

**Ramadan** holds special significance for Muslims, who observe practices during this time to strengthen their faith. Here are some key points about Ramadan:

1. **Fasting:** During Ramadan, Muslims fast from **dawn till sunset**. This practice is called **sawm** and is one of the **Five Pillars of Islam**. Fasting allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith, practice self-discipline, and empathize with those less fortunate.
2. **Spiritual Devotion:** Ramadan is a time for **re-devoting oneself to God** through prayer and good deeds. Muslims spend time with family and friends, help those in need, and strive to give up bad habits.
3. **The Qur'an:** Many Muslims aim to read the entire **Qur'an** during Ramadan. Special services are held in mosques where the Qur'an is recited.
4. **Eid ul-Fitr:** The end of Ramadan is marked by a joyous celebration called **Eid ul-Fitr** (the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast). Muslims express gratitude to Allah for the strength provided throughout the month. They dress in their finest clothes, give gifts to children, and share meals with family and friends.

**When is Ramadan?** This year Ramadan will start between 9-11 March, depending on the sighting of the moon and will end on the 8 April. During this time, our school library will be open at lunch time for any of our children who are fasting. If your child is fasting please do let your child's teacher know so that we can support the children during this time.

## Learning this term!



### Nursery - Caron, Vicky, Vibha & Lisa

In Nursery over the coming half term our focus will be on Spring alongside the children's interests.

There will be a focus on spring flowers such as blossom and daffodils, growing cress, life cycles of frogs if I get frog spawn in my pond.

We will treat our Spring focus in a holistic way, looking at relevant mathematical ideas, doing a Big Art work together, introducing regular stories to tie in with the theme, making the use of the outdoor environment and plenty of hands on art work using different mediums.

Our early phonics focus will be 'Rhythm and Rhyme'.

The main purposes are:

1. To experience and appreciate rhythm and rhyme and to develop awareness of rhythm and rhyme in speech
2. To increase awareness of words that rhyme and to develop knowledge about rhyme
3. To talk about words that rhyme and to produce rhyming words

Our maths focus will feature will be around number and counting e.g. holding up 3 fingers for 3 little ducks, counting how many are in a group, matching some numerals to quantity of objects and noticing when 2 groups have the same amount.

We will investigate repeating patterns and look at the properties of shapes through games at Circle Time.

Finally, we introduced the language of weight and length through activities such as making their own playdough or building towers last term. This term we will consolidate this knowledge by growing different seeds, measuring outside using rulers, tape measures or themselves.

We will finish off the term with a Spring Trip to Howe Park Woods to observe any signs of Spring in the woods.

### **Rickley Robins - Mrs Mandy Dennis & Mrs Dawn Rioch**

This term the children continue to follow their personalised curriculums in order for us to track and celebrate the progress that is made in each area of the curriculum.

The children continue to work with understanding number and 'real world' experiences of bigger, smaller, more and less. The children also practice their measuring skills when cooking and completing practical activities.

Each week the children will be visiting a unique sensory room experience. Look out for pictures in their learning journals!

As the weather gets warmer the children will enjoy accessing different parts of the school and the wider world and continue their physical development in PE.

### **Foundation - Mrs Cole, Mrs Whitley, Mrs Sanders, Mr Norman & Mr Page**

In foundation this half term we are very much looking forward to our trip to Hogshaw Farm! We will learn how things grow and will also investigate the life cycles of animals. We will also continue to observe the everchanging seasons and hopefully will see signs of Spring developing as we get ready for warmer weather.

In **Literacy** this half term, traditional tales, famous picture books and animations will be used during our **Drawing Club** sessions to inspire the children to write. These include: 'Room on the Broom', Mr Ben (Zookeeper), 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Where the Wild Things Are'. In Phonics we will continue to consolidate and learn more sounds and 'red' words and use these in our independent reading and writing.

In **Maths** this half term, we will continue to explore and deepen our knowledge of numbers to 10 ;- we compare numbers and identify the different number bonds to 10. We will then move onto further developing our knowledge of 3D shapes. We explore shapes in our environment and make them using card, playdough, and other resources. We will continue to use the 10s frame, the parts-whole model and a range of resources to represent our mathematical knowledge.

Please continue to support your child's learning at home by: reading daily and commenting in your child's reading diary, (including regular practise of all the sounds and red words) as well as practising recognition, ordering and counting forwards and backwards to 20.

### **Year One - Miss Varney, Mrs Ridley, Miss Boothroyd, Mrs Goble and Miss Miles**

In **Maths**, we will explore adding and subtracting within 20 and learning the number bond facts to 20. We will then move onto focusing on place value within 50, with particular emphasis on finding one more and one less, making groups of tens and ones, partitioning the number and finding these numbers on a number line.

In **English** we will be focusing on *Where The Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. The children will be writing an information report about the characters and will be using adjectives to make their writing more exciting. They will deepen their knowledge of basic punctuation by using exclamation marks and question marks.

In **Science**, we will continue to identify and sort a range of everyday items made from different materials. We will continue to investigate a range of different properties for a range of materials. In **computing** we will be continuing to learn how to stay safe online and explore the various tools and programs on Purple Mash. In **Geography** we will reflect upon our knowledge of the UK and its capital cities. This term, we will be focusing on the four seasons: Autumn, Spring, Summer and Winter. We will recap the months of the year and identify which months are in each season – this will be done by a song and actions! We will then identify the key features of each season before comparing them to find out which is our favourite season. As we will be looking at the weather associated to each season, each class has made their own weather gauge to measure the amount of rainfall each day. At the end of the term, we will compare our results to see which day had the most rainfall and which day had the least. In **D.T** we will be exploring mechanisms. We will introduce the children to sliders (moving from side and side) and leavers (pivoting) to create their own moving picture. This will be done over several weeks where we will focus on the necessary knowledge and skills before designing, making and evaluating their own creation.

### **Year Two - Mr Ainscow, Miss Kavanagh, Miss Couzens & Miss Simmonds**

In **English**, the children will be continuing their work on instructions and how to make a habitat for an unusual creature. As well as this, the children will be working on a narrative piece of writing centred around our focus story *Grandad's Island* by Benji Davies. Alongside these lessons, we will continue to focus on our year 2 spellings and working on our handwriting.

In **maths** this half term we will continue to explore multiplication and division, followed by measuring length, height, temperature and solving problems with all these.

In **science**, we will be continuing to learn more about materials. We will be finding more about scientists including, Charles Macintosh, John Dunlop and John McAdam and what they discovered. We will explore different materials ourselves, looking at what materials can help to keep humpty dumpty safe and what materials are strong enough to stop the Big Bad Wolf from blowing down the houses.

In **Art**, the children are taught to explore and create maps through various art forms, including drawing, felt making, printmaking, and designing stained glass. The lessons aim to develop skills in sorting, designing, and evaluating art, encouraging students to present and discuss their creations in a class gallery setting.

In **RE** the children will be exploring how we know that some people are believed to have a special connection to God through looking for clues in religious stories.

In **RSHE** we will be learning about the importance of rules and what roles people have in the community. We will also investigate how the community looks after the environment and focus on how we look after our own school environment.

### **Year Three - Mrs Smith, Mrs Williams, Miss Jones & Mrs Oram**

In **maths** this term we are building on our knowledge of measure, measuring in mm, cm and m.

We explore equivalence and learn to convert between different units of measure. Finally, we apply our knowledge to learn how to add and subtract lengths and how to calculate perimeter.

After this topic we begin to learn about fractions as unit and non-unit fractions. We learn how to put fractions on a scale and how to order them in size. We then look at equivalence in fractions, both on a number line and by drawing bar models to help us have a visual model.

We will be counting in fractions so if you would like to support, it would be great to try this at home too.

During Spring 2 we will be **writing** an information leaflet about rivers before moving on to write our own information leaflet of our choice of a natural wonder of the world.

**Science** this term is looking at Animals including humans. The children will learn about nutrition, muscles, bones in the human body and the skeleton types.

This term we are building on our **computing** knowledge of coding using resources on Purple Mash. The aim is to embed the vocabulary for coding so that we can apply it to other coding programs such as Scratch and moving on to Swift on Apple devices later in the year. Purple Mash 2-Do's will be set for your child to build on our lessons at home should they wish to.

Every Monday afternoon **Forest Schools** will be running whatever the weather. Bearing this in mind, can you please send your child in with a pair of outdoor shoes or wellies and include a bag that they can carry muddy shoes home in. They will also need an outside coat that, due to the activities planned, you will not mind if it gets muddy.

### **Year Four - Miss Rutherford, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Sheikh & Mrs Turp**

In **maths** we are developing our understanding of fractions.

In **English** we are exploring a myth narrative and instructions using **Arthur and the Golden Rope** as a supportive text to guide us. In reading we are developing our VIPERS skills looking at non-fiction books such as: Viking Voyagers and How does a lighthouse work?

In **science** we are exploring our topic of sound. We will be using our enquiry skills to investigate volume, pitch and how soundproofing works.

In **history** and **geography** we are exploring the Vikings and their settlements within the UK as well as studying different types of mountains and exploring mountain ranges of the world.

In **RSHE** we are looking at citizenship.

4NR are also still learning the **clarinet**, 4EW will learn the clarinet in the summer term.



### **Year Five - Miss Pickup, Mr Walshaw & Mrs Rayner**

Throughout the Spring 2 term, Year 5 are learning about the **Circle of Life**. They will develop their understanding of key scientific vocabulary and knowledge of different life cycles (animals, including humans and plants). This will link to their learning in RSHE. In Geography, we will be exploring North America and making connections to other countries.

In **Maths**, the children will continue learning about area and perimeter before learning about statistics. They will be using their mathematical understanding to answer reasoning questions.

In **English**, the children will be refining their grammatical knowledge and looking at the features of a narrative piece of writing. This will be supported by reading a range of books in Whole Class Reading, such as: Boy Overboard, The Arrival and Boy in the Tower.

### **Year Six - Miss Chandler, Mrs Bull, Mrs Downs, Mrs Borah and Mrs Pretorius**

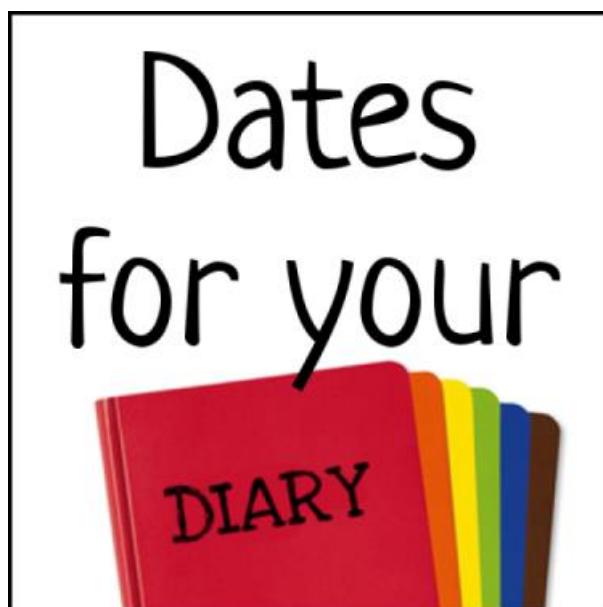
In **maths**, we are going to spend some time looking at the links and relationships between fractions, decimals and percentages. Following on from this, we will explore area, perimeter and volume.

In **English**, we are learning about persuasive techniques as well as revising all year 6 grammar objectives. We will be ensuring we can use speech in narrative correctly and that we can show what is happening by describing. In **reading**, we are learning to be more confident answering longer questions about a text.

In geography, we are learning all about South America. We will find out about physical and human features as well as comparing different areas. We are excited to learn about the Amazon and what life is like in different parts of this fascinating area.

In **science**, we will continue to develop our knowledge of the human body. We will deepen our understanding of animals and plants by studying the climates and conditions in which animals and plants thrive.

## Dates for your Diary



**Thursday 7th March** - World Book Day

**Friday 8th March** - Mother's Day Breakfast (book via MCAS)

**Friday 15th March** - Non-uniform day for Comic Relief (suggested donation of £1)

**Tuesday 26th March & Thursday 28th March** – Parents Evening 3:30-6:30pm (face-to-face in the school hall)

**Thursday 28th March** – Last day of term

**Friday 29th March** – Bank Holiday (school closed)

**Monday 15th April** – Term begins

**Monday 6th May** - Bank Holiday (school closed)

**Monday 13th May** – Year 6 SATs week

**Friday 24th May** – Last day of term

**Monday 3rd June** – Term begins

**Monday 3rd June** – Year 4 Multiplication Table Check window

**Monday 10th June** – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check week

**Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th June** – Y6 residential

**Thursday 20th June** - School Photos

**Tuesday 25th June** – Sports Day (reserve date: Tuesday 2nd July)

**Thursday 11th July** – Year 6 Leavers Performance

**Tuesday 16th July** – Year 6 Prom

**Thursday 18th July** – Rickley Inspiration Awards

**Friday 19th July** – Rickley's Got Talent

**Friday 19th July** – Last day of the term

**Monday 22nd July** – INSET Day

Dates and further information can be found on our school website.

Contact Us



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Visit us on the web at [www.rickleypark.co.uk](http://www.rickleypark.co.uk)