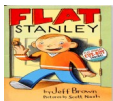


The Pod Spring 2

Overview: Authors



We are very pleased to welcome your child to The Pod, whether they are returning this year or joining us for the first time. Our class name is The Pod. Mrs Mudie (Monday Tuesday) and Mrs Pitchford (Wednesday Thursday) Mrs. Kent (Friday) are the class teachers and our teaching assistants are Mrs McGettrick, Ms. Begum, Mr. Harris. Please feel free to speak to us or put a note in your child's planner if you have any questions about your child and their learning.

The Pursuit of Greatness has begun. These are **our school values**. The children will regularly ask questions to further their understanding of these.



Respect Enquire Persevere

Dates for the diary:

Parents Evening 7th & 8th March

Robot Day 12th March

Science Weeks 5th and 12th March (two weeks)

Sport Relief 23rd March

Easter Holiday break up Thursday 29th March and return on Monday 16th April 2018

English

Spoken Language: We will encourage your child to speak articulately and in full sentences. Children will have opportunities every day to develop their speech and language through specially planned interventions to meet their individual needs.

Reading: We will focus on ensuring your child has no gaps in their phonic knowledge and can accurately decode words. We will work with your child to develop their understanding and comprehension, through questions and reading related activities. We will be using the Fresh Start Programme which covers all aspects of reading, comprehension, spelling and writing.

How can you help? Read everything and anything! Cereal boxes, adverts and even computer games all have written information you can read together! Talk to your child about what they have read. Do they understand it? Did they enjoy it? Have they read anything similar before? Encourage your child to sound out words but please give them to words that don't sound out.

Spelling: Every day we will be practising spellings. When you read with your child, please look at some of the words with them and discuss the spelling of them.

Handwriting: Children will focus on correct letter formation through fun kinaesthetic activities before moving onto cursive script and joining when they are ready. Attached is a copy of our handwriting policy.

Writing: Recounts (to inform), stories (to entertain) letter writing, plays using speech marks. All writing to ensure basic punctuation is used.

Author study: Jeff Brown

Poetry: We will be looking at rhyming words.

Maths

Maths is divided into 6 main areas which we teach throughout the term. These are: number, place value, the 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), fractions, measurement, geometry.

Science: Science in your pocket – hands on science.

Animals including humans

Geography/IPC: Contrasting localities. Australia

Music: Rhythm and pulse.

PE: Team games and swimming.

RE: Being modest and listening to others

Peacemakers: What is conflict?

Enrichment: Outdoor learning—Monday

Yoga Bugs—Tuesday

Swimming—Wednesday

Talkabout/Social Skills—Thursday

Enterprise Hub —Friday

YR6 pupils only

Science: Electricity + All Living Things.

Topic: World War 2 incl the Battle of Britain

PE: Invasion games, gymnastics, orienteering.

RE: Christianity—Easter

French: Habitats

PSHCE/

Fundamental

British Values/

SMSC:



The Daily Timetable

8.40	Doors Open
8.50	Registration
9.00	Morning learning
11.55	Lunch time
1.00	Afternoon Learning
3.00	Home time

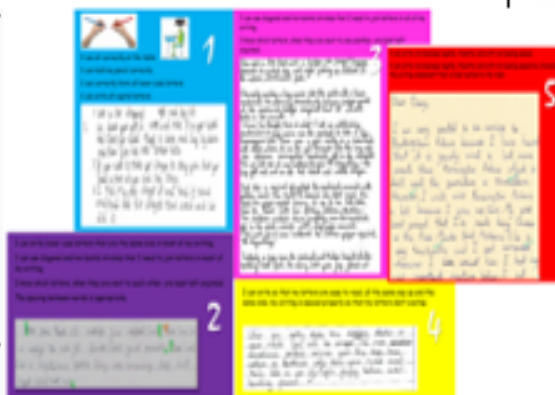


Make it fun!

Importantly, any extra handwriting work that you complete with your child needs to be fun. If it isn't fun, handwriting neatly can turn into an unpleasant chore! Presenting work neatly for a purpose, such as a thank you letter or party invitation, is also really important. Children should take a pride in their work!

Handwriting

Have you seen the stages of handwriting displayed in your child's classroom?



Infants and Key Stage 1 (but fun for all!)

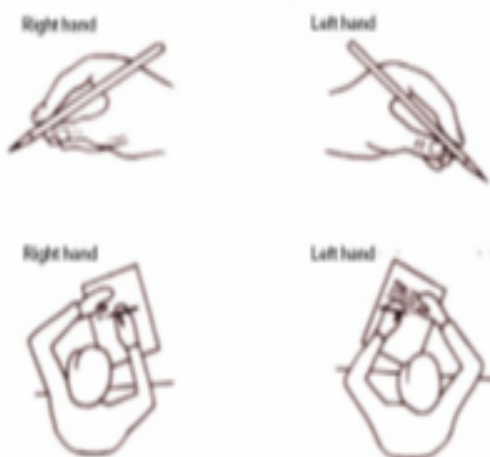
Via fun activities, we aim to build control skills in younger children. Bead threading, colouring, tracing, dot to dot, and pattern copying are encouraged. Using a pencil to form recognisable letters with a comfortable and efficient pencil grip is important. Children are then encouraged to form words, with a finger space in-between! When children are ready, they are taught to join their handwriting using the 'Nelson' style.

Key Stage 2 (and possibly Key Stage 1)

Children go on to work on sizing their letters consistently and joining their handwriting neatly. Many children seem keen to print their handwriting later on in Key Stage 2, but we are very keen that children maintain the good work they have begun with joining, developing a neat and efficient style.

How to hold a pen and how to position the paper

The diagrams below give indications of how to hold a pen and the correct positioning of paper.



What sort of pens or pencils should my child use?

At school, children use pen in their exercise books as soon as teachers think that they are ready. We encourage children to use fibre tipped style pens rather than Biro.

How should my child sit?

The child's chair and table should be at a comfortable height. Children should be encouraged to sit up straight and not to slouch. Thighs should be horizontal and feet flat on the floor. There should be plenty of light.

The Nelson handwriting style used:

The joined style

The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

What if my child is left handed?

It is often helpful to find an adult who is left-handed to assist if your child has problems with pen hold or the position of the paper. Awkward or unusual positions often work, and it is not necessarily correct to change these.

Links with Spellings

Research has confirmed the natural link between spelling and handwriting. Handwriting can be used to help your child with their mastery of common spelling rules and develop both a visual and a motor memory of spelling patterns.