



## **Foundation Phase Spring Term Newsletter 2023**

A very big welcome back to everyone. Thank you very much for all our Christmas cards and presents - we hope you have all had a good Christmas holiday and are looking forward to the term ahead.

Our topic for this term is **Light and Dark** which has a Science and Technology focus and teaches the children about light, colour and electricity. Children will learn about nocturnal and diurnal animals; how to create a simple circuit; about the history of electricity; why light is important to us and other cultures; how to use light and colour to create patterns, effects and express feelings; and our Solar System. As part of our topic, we have booked an Outreach Planetarium visit.

**Morning Routine** - Children should hang their coat and bag on their peg and place their lunch bag and drink in the trolley before washing their hands. In Robins' class book bags should be placed in the blue box outside the classroom, bags will be checked to see if your child needs a new reading book. In Owls' class, if your child needs a new reading book they should place their reading book and reading record in the tray in the classroom, please remind them to do this on their way into class. There are a range of table top activities set up for children to choose from before settling down to do the lunch register.

To comply with our safeguarding policy and to encourage the children to develop their independence, **please say goodbye to them at the outside door.**

**Snack** - Please can children bring a fresh/dried fruit snack to eat each day during fruit break in the mornings. They will also be offered a drink of milk. Playing and learning is thirsty work, so please send a filled (named!) water bottle to school each day with your child.

**ParentPay**- Please can you check your ParentPay account is up-to-date.

**PE** lessons will be on Wednesday. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit: dark coloured shorts or leggings, a white T-shirt, school jumper and a pair of daps/trainers. Outdoor learning - We will be learning outdoors as much as possible, so it would be useful if all pupils have a change of footwear (ideally wellies) and a waterproof coat in school at all times. It would be a great help if you could teach your child to dress and undress as independently as possible. Please make sure that all items of clothing and shoes are named to avoid mix-ups.

**Cooking** - This term we hope to cook a variety of food including pancakes, chinese noodles and biscuits. Every child has an opportunity to take part, sometimes in a small group and sometimes individually, depending on what we are cooking. Unfortunately, we have been relying on reserve funds which have now depleted, so in order to provide this activity, we ask for a contribution of £3 a term towards the cost of purchasing ingredients. We appreciate your support with this as cooking is an activity the children particularly enjoy. Please send contributions for this into school in a named envelope, thank you.

**Homework** - Y1 and 2 will have Spelling words sent home on Monday. Please help your child to learn these words ready for an informal test on Friday. Maths homework will be sent home on Thursday and should be returned the following Monday. In addition all children should read regularly as part of their homework.

**Reading** - All pupils in Foundation Phase will take part in differentiated Guided Reading sessions, twice a week and Phonics sessions three times a week. Pupils will benefit from taking part in these structured group reading sessions which link directly to our phonics scheme and focus on discussion and comprehension. Individual reading books will still be sent home, Reception children should read for a couple of minutes every day and by Year 2 they should be reading for 10 minutes at least 3/4 times per week, as this is a crucial part of their learning and the only way they will progress through the reading scheme. Record what reading has been done in their reading record. Please ensure that the reading record and reading book is brought into school every day.

**Bags** - Please can all children use their book bags to bring reading books to school, rather than a rucksack. We can also use these to put homework books in as it keeps the books in a good condition. Book bags can be ordered from <https://www.theprintsofwales.co.uk/> for £7.50. Our password for this site is Llangattock.

**Hair** - Please can all boys and girls with hair that is long enough to tie into a bobble, wear their hair tied up.

**Medicines** - If your child has to take any medication during school hours, please fill in one of the forms that are available from the school office and leave the medicine with a member of staff at reception.

**Communication** - Weekly updates, newsletters and other information from Mrs Marshall will be emailed to parents. If you are not receiving this information, please check your junk folder as well as making sure we have your up-to-date email address. Dates of upcoming events and other useful information can be found on the school website - [www.llangattock.powys.sch.uk](http://www.llangattock.powys.sch.uk). Follow us on Twitter @Our\_Llangattock to see photographs of the children.

**Parent Helpers** - We are always grateful for any parents who would like to come and help in school, whether that is listening to readers or doing some cookery with the children. If you would like to help out, and are happy to have a DBS check, please come and see a member of staff. Do you have any knowledge of our Solar System, generation of electricity and sustainable energy, that you would be able to share with the children, as part of our Topic?

Please contact us by email using the relevant addresses below if you have any questions or queries. We check our emails regularly and will respond to them by the end of the week, but if you require a more urgent or immediate reply then please telephone us or visit the school office to arrange to speak to us.

Kind regards,

**Liz Thomas**

**Rhian Whittle**

**Kathryn Marshall**

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**Safeguarding and Child Protection**

*In the interest of safeguarding, we politely request that parents do not come in to school at the end of the day, including after clubs, via any entrance other than the main entrance.*

*If you wish to speak to the class teacher informally, then please see them before school from 8:50am.*

*Kathryn Marshall*