



Autumn Newsletter 2016



Welcome to Lower Dart!

We hope you had a wonderful summer holiday and we can tell that the children have come back with lots of enthusiasm and are ready to learn. We would especially like to welcome Fin and Henry to our class. They have settled in really well already.

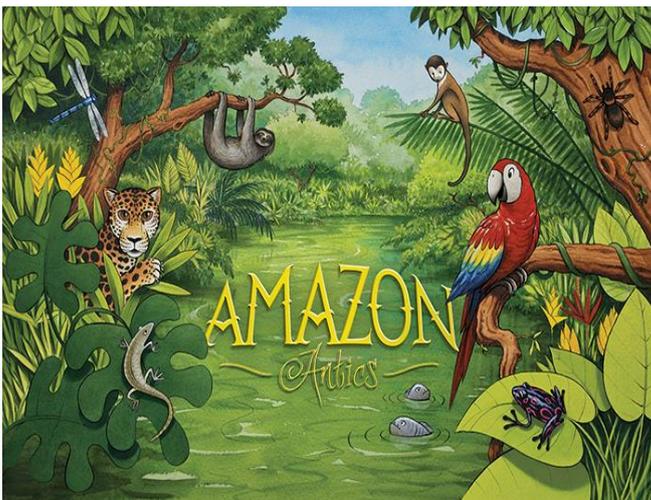
This term the children will be taught by Miss Sophie Mount all week, except for Friday afternoons, when they will have the amazing Mr Stokes for computing and reading. Suzy is our super TA, and she will be with us from Monday -Wednesday and we will also have fabulous Fiona supporting us for some of Thursday.

.....

This week, we have looked at how our brain works and makes lots of connections, when we make mistakes and find things a bit hard. We found out that this is when our brains grow the most and that our brain grows and changes all the time when we are learning. The children have had super ideas and we have all watched our brains grow this week. We will keep linking this to Building Learning Power all year!



.....



Our topic for the first half of the Autumn term is 'Rainforests', with an emphasis on the Amazon. This will particularly develop the children's geography and environmental skills. The children will be learning what a rainforest is and where they are in the world. We will compare our forests to Rainforests and discover more about the amazing animals and people who live there. We will also investigate how the Rainforests are under threat. If you haven't already found it, this is

one of the many great websites for children on the topic.

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/rainforest.html>

.....

Additionally, through a range of topic links and discrete teaching, the children will continue to extend their literacy, numeracy, art, music, religious education, French, computing, PSHE and PE skills.



All children will continue to have a Reading Record in their book bag in which home and school will record any reading the children have done. ****We also have the age-expected spellings and phonics in these books. Please do practise these!**** We really appreciate the support you give the children at home with reading. It is such a vital area of education, not only opening up their lives to a world of wonderful books, but also stimulating their imagination and inspiring their writing.



Our spellings will be introduced and practised in school, through a range of activities and games, but we would appreciate it if you could help your child practise these at home.

Attached to this letter is a record of the spellings your child will have this half term, ideal for sticking on the fridge door. The children will have a weekly spelling 'quiz' every Friday.

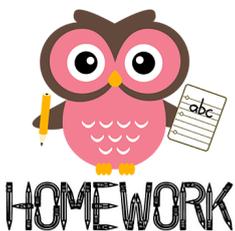


We will have **PE** on Mondays (outdoor) & Wednesdays (indoor). Please do ensure your children have their PE kit in school: white t-shirt, blue shorts, trainers/plimsolls and spares socks. As we move into the colder autumn weather it would be advisable to provide your child with tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt for PE.

We encourage the children to bring in a labelled bottle of water, to be kept in the classroom, for use throughout the day and take it home for washing!



The children have once again contributed ideas for their homework passport, which will run for the whole term. Children should do **at least one item from the sheet every week.** (TO BE HANDED IN ON WEDNESDAYS) I will also add some maths activities to their Abacus accounts. More details to follow. Don't forget, that all children should practise reading every day, and that there will be a spelling quiz on Fridays.



We are looking forward to an exciting term ahead where we will encourage, support, and challenge the children to reach their full potential. Please do feel free to come in and see us, phone or email if you wish to discuss anything, or would like any more information.

Sophie Mount, Mr Stokes, Suzy & Fiona.