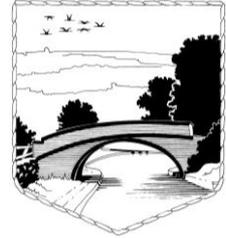




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## Curriculum Letters – Autumn 2024

**Little Lawrences** have had a brilliant start to the Autumn term and the team are feeling confident that all the children, both old and new have settled well. Throughout this term we will be developing the children's confidence and independence through building relationships and helping them better understand and manage their feelings. Autumn term is one where we will be working on building curiosity in ourselves and the natural world around us. This topic will explore how amazing each one of us is, our families and the communities around us that support us. This will be supported with a trip to the farm and opportunities to invite pets into preschool. This will lead nicely to Harvest festival and Christmas and we will start to wonder about the Seasons, looking at change in all aspects. We will be working on our listening, speaking and understanding skills through our daily activities which will incorporate a mixture of phonics, fine and gross motor development and emotional development; working on building those skills that will help your child become a lifelong learner. This term we will also be welcoming some African snails and we await their start date with us! We believe that learning is a partnership between school and home so we will continue to share with you our learning experiences through 'tapestry'. If you would like to know more about any aspect of the topic or have information relating to it such as pictures of the children please do share these with the team.

This term in **Reception** we will be helping the children to settle in and to feel safe in school. We will spend lots of time getting to know each other and will help the children to get used to the new routines and class rules. We will focus on 'Ourselves and our families' in our adult led sessions and the provision will follow their interests. When the children are ready, we will start to introduce whole class phonics and maths sessions and will do lots of activities to strengthen and develop their gross and fine motor skills. Alongside this we will do lots of singing and storytelling. Other highlights will include autumnal visits to the farm and enjoying learning about special events such as Bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas.

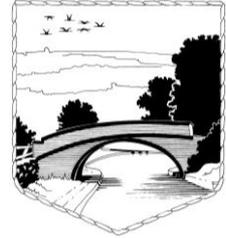
This term in **Year 1** is set to be a very busy one! The children have settled brilliantly so far and are really getting involved in their new learning and routine. It has been wonderful to see them make the transition from Early Years so confidently! Our topic for the term follows the whole school overarching theme of 'Fire and Ice'. In Year 1, we will be learning all about Africa, specifically Kenya. We will make comparisons between where we live and a village in Kenya, we will look at the weather, homes, animals and culture. It will be really exciting! Where possible, we will be linking our English work to our topic using brilliant texts as a stimulus. Phonics continues to be taught daily using the Sounds Write programme and children will receive weekly homework based upon this. Their reading books will also focus on sounds we have covered in class. We will be using 'The Lion Inside' and 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' as two of our main texts. In maths, we will be beginning the term learning the place value of numbers to 10 and will move onto addition and subtraction within 10 also. Finally, we will finish the term by learning more about shapes! In science, we will be learning all about seasonal changes between summer and autumn and autumn to winter. We will also be learning about everyday materials and how they are used. Some of our learning takes place outdoors through Forest School. This happens every Friday and we hope to access outdoor learning as often as possible across the curriculum. Finally, we will have Christmas to look forward to! There will be a performance to look forward to which is always great fun in Year 1. We are really looking forward to getting to know the children and their families and working with you all.

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**Year 2** are in for a fantastic term discovering London, old and new in our Topic lessons. We will be extending our learning from Year 1 about London as it is today, looking at the River Thames and delving into life in London in the past. We will study modern maps and investigate how to explore London from one landmark to another using different modes of transport and directional language. Our learning journey will take us back in time to the first day of the Great Fire of London. We will discover the sequence of events that led to the catastrophe, meet some of the famous eye witnesses and see the impact of the fire. Many of the texts we will study in English this term and our art lessons will be linked to our topic. In Science, we will be looking at everyday materials, identifying the different materials, properties and uses of them. We will conduct investigations to explain why specific materials are used for products and further our knowledge of recycling. Our Maths this term will continue with Mastering Number to develop our fluency. We will also further develop our understanding of place value and the number systems. We will read, write and order numbers to 100, identify tens and ones and partition numbers in a range of different ways. In computing, we will be looking at 'What is IT?' identifying different examples of IT, as well as how it is used around the world and how we can use it safely.

This term, **Year 3** are digging deep into the topic of 'Active Earth'. We will be learning about the structure of the Earth and how volcanoes and earthquakes are formed. We will also be examining rocks and soils and learning how fossils are formed. A real highlight of the term and year is when we will become fossil hunters during our upcoming trip to Crosshands Quarry. Our English texts include 'The Street Beneath my Feet' which tells the story of what is hidden underground. We will develop our writing skills as we write and illustrate our own versions. Later in the term we will become poets and capture the drama of volcanoes and develop our descriptive language and techniques through poetry. These lessons sit alongside our regular focus on spelling and handwriting to help us become fluent writers. Our maths units will deepen our understanding of number as we explore the place value of larger numbers and the four operations of number. The term's art and DT lessons will be linked to our topic and will feature geology themed tapestries, Andy Warhol inspired volcanoes and designing and building earthquake proof structures. Of course, we will contribute to the hall decorations for harvest and Christmas too. What a busy term!

This term, our **Year 4** topic revolves around glaciers and the water cycle. We will be investigating the way water moves, the different forms it takes, specific examples of mountains and glaciers, as well as environmental changes. In science, we begin with electricity, appliances and circuits before moving onto functions of the human body (including digestion, teeth and food chains). In English, our first text is 'The Barnabus Project', which we will be working on for the next few weeks. Following this, we will be working with both factual and fiction texts (both related to and separate from our topic), and covering poetry and prose, as well as writing for purpose. In maths, we are beginning with place value, before moving on to addition, subtraction, area, multiplication and division. Finally, a reminder - Year 4 will be undertaking their MTC this year, and so to supplement our work in school daily practice of all multiplication tables is recommended, even if it's just a few minutes. Times-table Rockstars, Google Classroom and EdShed logins will be circulated next week.

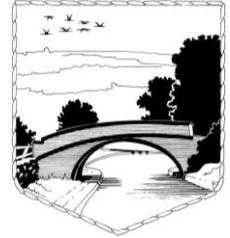
In **Year 5** this autumn, we are excited to be calculating with Roman numerals to 1,000; comparing, ordering and rounding numbers to the nearest 10,100 and 1000 within a million; developing expertise in using the powers of 10; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with missing digits over a thousand including multi-step word problems and those involving squares, square roots and cubes; and we're further curious to be building on our skills at comparing, ordering, converting, adding and subtracting fractions... In Science we're learning about the

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celestial bodies of the Sun, Moon and Earth and how they are related to one another; and we'll conduct investigations and make observations using sundials as well as exploring time zones, hemispheres and seasons. Later, we'll identify the phases of the Moon, comets, asteroids and dwarf planets; and compare the similarities and differences between a geocentric and heliocentric model of the solar system as well as studying some key people linked to space and space exploration. In our 'Fire and Ice' Topic, we're thrilled to be studying the Polar Regions and discovering more about these harsh, hostile environments, their explorers and their explorations and legacies. Thus our Topic and our English focuses will be further supported by our class guided reading books: Shackleton's Journey by William Grill and Race to The Frozen North by Catherine Johnson and by our short film unit - 23 degrees 5 minutes by Austin Kenny and Darragh O'Connell (director too). In addition, we'll be honing our Art and DT skills, knowledge and understanding as we make seasonal food (fruit crumbles, vegetable stews, Christmas desserts); wooden Remembrance Day commemorative plaques and silhouette paintings; woven mini Harvest Festival baskets and collage; and sewn items with appliques and sketches. Moreover, we'll embrace the warm welcome and wealth of expertise and kindness from Bob and Pat and from Helen as we embark on the wonderful opportunities for outdoor learning at Church Leyes Farm and St. Lawrence Church. What an honour and privilege it is to have superb local resources and people to enhance our physical, intellectual and mental wellbeing!

In **Year 6**, our overarching theme for this term is *Extremes*, and we have an exciting and thought-provoking journey ahead. In English, we'll explore the environmental messages in *The Last Bear* by Hannah Gold, diving into polar habitats and the impact of climate change. We plan to step into the shoes of the characters, create dialogue, write scientifically about polar bears, and craft a newspaper report highlighting key environmental issues. We will also study *The Hidden Forest* by Jeannie Baker by encouraging a blend of creativity and critical thinking through thought-provoking tasks such as artwork description, thought bubbles, diary entries, and research notes, culminating in a balanced discussion. Later in the term we will switch into *Holes* by Louis Sachar, where we will write narratives, reports, and informal letters as they follow Stanley's discoveries and the challenges he faces at the camp. Towards the end of term, we'll wind down with a quick look at *The Polar Express* to spark some festive imaginations. Alongside this, we'll engage with non-fiction texts like *Wild Weather* by Liz Gogerly and *The Big Picture: Extreme Earth* by Jon Richards, to expand our understanding of the world's natural extremes. In maths, we will focus on place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions, helping students tackle complex multi-step problems and develop skills in estimation and mental calculations. Science lessons will cover electricity and animals, including humans, while geography will involve investigating extreme weather conditions and their causes. For art, we'll be recreating Hokusai's iconic *Great Wave*, using various media to capture movement and energy. Look out for a term full of learning, creativity, and exploration!