

## Supporting your child's work at home - Spring 2016

In Upper Key Stage 2 - Poplars, Larches, Maples and Cedars - we follow a syllabus broadly based on the new National Curriculum, carefully adapted to the needs of the children.

Literacy - We follow a skills based Literacy curriculum which concentrates on speaking and listening, writing skills and reading - incorporating both whole-word and phonic skills.

- Support your child with their weekly spellings
- Hear your child read their home reader every week
- Enjoy sharing your child's library book with them and encourage them to recall key information
- Tell us about their weekend and holiday activities so we can talk and write about their 'News' in school
- Encourage your child to complete activities with clear steps which may be recalled (e.g. wrapping a present, getting ready for bed, making a sandwich, etc.)
- Visit [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) (select 'Learning Games' and then 'English')

Numeracy - We focus on the following key areas of mathematics, which include number skills, shape space and measure, data handling and problem solving using mathematical knowledge.

- Practice recognising, counting, and ordering numbers regularly and explore number patterns such as counting in 2s, 5s and 10s
- Support your child with telling the time
- Provide real-life experiences of handling money
- Be 'shape detectives' around your home and the surrounding area
- Join 'The Great British Bake Off' and enable your child to experience measuring out ingredients for a real purpose
- Visit [www.topmarks.co.uk](http://www.topmarks.co.uk) (select 'Learning Games' and then 'Maths')

Science - We will be looking at "reversible and irreversible changes" and "mixtures and solutions"

- Cook with your child, exploring the ingredients 'before' and 'after'. What difference has the heat made? Mix dry ingredients → are the ingredients the same or have they changed? Add a liquid → what difference does this make?
- Sieve different ingredients and see which particles fall through the holes
- Watch bbc class-clips about mixtures and solutions and reversible and irreversible changes

Topic - "Homeland"

- Go to your local library and look for books, especially picture books and atlases about the United Kingdom.
- Visit Birmingham (Council House, Selfridges, Think Tank, 'Find the Bull')
- Find your house on Google Earth
- Send a photograph of your child outside the front of their house
- Sing the National Anthem
- Look at pictures of key landmarks in the United Kingdom and practise naming them
- Explore the traditional foods of England (scones, fish and chips, roast beef), Scotland (shortbread, oat cakes, haggis), Wales (Welsh cakes, leeks, Welsh rarebit, bara-brith) and Northern Ireland (colcannon, Irish stew, soda bread)
- Colour the flags and national flowers (rose, thistle, daffodil and clover)
- Listen to traditional music (bag pipes, harp, etc.)

D.T. - We will be exploring "Cooking and where our food comes from"

- Explore with your child which vegetables grow under the soil and which grow on top
- Visit a local farm

- Take your child shopping to the supermarket/green-grocers/ farmers market
- Play "I went to the shops and bought..." with your child
- Match pictures of the plant to the edible food
- Match the food names to the animal names
- Encourage your child to help you prepare food in the kitchen (peeling, chopping, slicing, grating, etc)
- Explore the food labels→ Where is each food from? Which foods are local? "Spot the Union Flag"
- Grow cress or a herb garden

#### Art - We wil be exploring "Pointillism"

- Research the artist George Seurat
- Practise colouring in pictures using dots of colour, scrunched tissue balls or finger painting

#### General project ideas →

- Take photographs of your visits, practical activities or discoveries at home and send them into school so we can share them with the rest of our class
- Ask relatives to send postcards to your child and encourage them to write back (especially relatives who may live in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland)