

Dear Lion Parents and Carers,

This half term has flown by! The Lions have surpassed themselves in all areas of the curriculum! We finished our class text 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and produced diaries of an exceptionally high standard. All the Lions have matured greatly over the last seven weeks, they are really rising to the challenge of being the oldest in the school. They are proving to be excellent role models to the younger children and are taking on the extra responsibility and the more advanced curriculum whole-heartedly. All the children are excited to embrace all the challenges that the New Year will bring and I have no doubt they'll be brilliant!



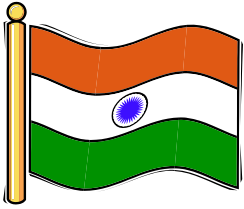
As part of our 'British Monarchs' topic we went on a trip to The Tower of London. We learnt all about King Henry VIII and other monarchs that have used the tower. We were also lucky enough to see the poppies!



In Art Week, we made mod-roc masks. They are currently on display in the entrance hall so feel free to pop in for a look- they are brilliant.

We have all enjoyed our interactive science lessons this half term. We have explored 'How we see things' and have also grown our own microorganism colonies (in the form of mould!).





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The next topic is **India**. It involves a range of creative learning from Bollywood style dance, to cuisine sampling and religion.

English: This will involve writing balanced arguments using an Indian theme. We will be reading a book 'Saraswati's Way' by Monika Schroder and from that, developing our argument skills through debating and practising how to have an opinion and air it in a constructive way for learning. We will also focus on imagery in poetry in the latter part of the term.

Maths: We will be looking at shape and revising the properties of shape. Included in this will be interior and exterior angles, diagonals, properties of triangles and using compasses and protractors to measure and draw triangles. We will end with an Indian mosaic based on our shape work.

Science: Next term the Lions will be covering two topics: **More About Dissolving**- In this unit we will be reviewing the use of filtration to separate solids from liquids and setting up an enquiry on dissolving. **Reversible & Irreversible Changes**- In this unit we will be looking at reversible and irreversible changes in the world around us.

In **PSHE**, we will talk about taking risks and weighing up the consequences. We will be looking at weighing the pros and cons of a decision and different strategies that we can use to make tough decisions. In **RSE** we will be covering 'Conception and Pregnancy' and 'Being a Parent'.

Computing: Next term we will be working on E-safety – making e-safety posters and webpages. While e-safety is embedded throughout our Computing curriculum, in this unit children will be reflecting on their own behaviour and appropriate conduct online, what is cyberbullying, and issues around access to online content. As well as our computing scheme of work, we will use resources from:
<http://www.lafli.net/esafety/Pages/education.aspx>

Geography: Lion class will be travelling to India and sending postcards home about the places we visit, the clothes we see and the culture we experience. We will be looking at Bollywood dancing and trying out some moves for ourselves, plus modelling some traditional dress. Sampling some Indian cuisine, (maybe even cooking some ourselves) will also be a highlight of the unit.

RE: As part of our RE we will also be looking at one of India's main religions, Sikhism and visit a Sikh temple.

Design and Technology: Next half term we will be making slippers. Children will be investigating different types of Indian slippers and using card to initially make templates before they make their own from blankets.

Music: Holly, our new music teacher, will be teaching Lions music next term. They will be continuing their work on reading and writing simple rhythms and introducing more complex rhythms, as well as focusing on melodies

French: During the Spring term we will be exploring the French children's book Je m'habille et je te croque! with the language focus on clothing, colours, days and months as well as numbers. We will be building both written and spoken sentences and explore genders and plural words. We will also start using bi-lingual dictionaries. In French we will also look at customs for epiphany, pancake day and Easter.

The **Head's Award** will continue to feature in children's day to day routine and they will be picking up many of the objectives as they work through the year. We have a dedicated session to the Head's Award every week to support the children but any help you can give at home would be a real bonus. The first Head's Award evening is on the **5th March 2015**.

PE/Games: This will be with Rachel on a **Monday** and Motiv8 on a **Wednesday** afternoon. Children will be doing a gymnastic, dance and invasion games this term.

Options: If your child has chosen a P.E Option, they will need to bring their P.E kit into school. New options for spring term will be given out at the beginning of term.

Home Learning: Thank you very much for your support with this. It is really important in this final year that the children complete their Home Learning as it is often referred to in lessons and is really clear indication as to whether the children have understood a concept. Please could you encourage your child to produce a high standard of work, both in presentation and in effort.

Holiday Home Learning: Over the Christmas holidays it would be great if children could research our topic, focusing on a particular area of interest or do a general search. This work can then be used to enrich our discussions in class in the first few topic sessions. Children can be as creative as they wish with their home learning.

Request: We would like to display some words about the topic in a variety of languages, so if anyone could translate our topic vocabulary, please come and see me.

Question Time: Please do not hesitate to come and see me in the playground on a **Wednesday** from 3.20pm. If you have any queries. alternatively you can make an appointment with Lisa in the office.

Many thanks for your continued support and we wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas!

Dates for the diary:

5 th January	Inset Day
6 th January	Term Starts
28 th January	Trip - BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir – Lion Class
17 th – 21 st February	Half Term
17 th March	Trip – Holly Lodge
23 rd - - 27 th March	Cycling Proficiency

Rachel, Maria and Leo.

