



LEECHPOOL CURRICULUM Newsletter



Mathematics-Calculation Policy

This term we have updated our calculation policy to help all adults working with children develop their mathematical understanding. A large focus on this update is ensuring clear guidance on helping guide children through the Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract (CPA) processes.

The CPA approach is a comprehensive framework that nurtures a well-rounded mathematical understanding, equipping children with essential skills for future academic success. In the concrete stage, children engage in hands-on activities using physical objects such as counting blocks, measuring tools, or other manipulatives. This tactile experience allows them to grasp foundational concepts by experiencing maths in a tangible way.

In the pictorial stage, students transition from the physical to the visual, as they create and interpret representations of mathematical ideas. This stage encourages the development of mental imagery and strengthens the connection between the concrete and abstract. Visual aids like diagrams, drawings, or charts play a crucial role in enhancing their comprehension.

Finally in the abstract stage, they begin to work with symbolic representations, such as numbers and equations. The solid foundation laid in the earlier stages ensures a smoother transition, as children now understand the meaning behind the symbols and can apply their knowledge to solve more complex problems.

The CPA approach not only builds a strong conceptual understanding but also accommodates diverse learning styles. It encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and the ability to approach mathematical challenges with confidence. By incorporating real-world examples and encouraging creativity, children develop a positive attitude towards maths, viewing it as a relevant and enjoyable subject.

To view the new calculation policy click on the picture to the right.



Working together to make crepes



Creating Swiss alpine hats



This flight will be calling at Sweden!

Geography

January is a particularly exciting time for all things geography at Leechpool, with the term kicking off with International Fortnight! International Fortnight allows children in every year group to experience what life is like in 2 other countries. Learning across all subjects is carefully constructed to link to their focus country, giving them real experiences in many aspects of different cultures including language, food, dance, clothes, traditional tales and more, as well as making lots of cross-curricula links. This time also allows the children to make comparisons with their own lives and opens up some really rich discussions, allowing the children to continue to develop their oracy skills. We know that International Fortnight creates long-term memories which we are proud of. Keep an eye out for our display in the main entrance to see examples of the excellent work produced, and photos that captured some of these special experiences.

Miss Thaddeuss and Miss Currington – Geography Leaders

Fostering Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing for All!

At Leechpool we pride ourselves on the ambitious and varied arts and physical education provision we provide. Regular exercise and engagement in the arts offer numerous benefits for mental health and overall well-being. Exercise, such as aerobic activities or sports, boosts mood by releasing endorphins and reduces stress through the regulation of stress hormones. It improves sleep quality, cognitive function, and energy levels while fostering social interaction. On the other hand, participation in artistic activities like painting or playing music provides a creative outlet for emotional expression, promoting relaxation and stress reduction. The arts contribute to enhanced self-esteem, mindfulness, and cognitive benefits. Both exercise and the arts offer opportunities for personal growth, achievement, and a sense of community. Combining these activities in one's routine can provide a holistic approach to mental well-being, addressing physical, emotional, and cognitive aspects of health, contributing to a more balanced and fulfilling life. We hope that the rigorous arts and physical education provision at Leechpool will provide the children with solid foundations to live a healthy and happy life. You may have also seen we are trying to extend this provision to the whole Leechpool community by opening up a running club for parents and carers not just children! If you have any interest in joining the Leechpool running club please contact the school office or speak to Mr Law for further information.