Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our first half term of Year 3! We have lots of exciting things planned to begin our journey in Key Stage 2. Here is some information about the coming half term.

**Our Topic: Long, Long Ago**

For the first half term, the children will be looking at prehistoric Britain, specifically the changes from Stone Age to Iron Age. We will be looking at a world timeline, as well as some of the amazing inventions from these periods. Our topic will cross lots of our subjects as we look at cave paintings in art, learn about rocks and fossils in science, and explore texts about the Stone Age during our reading lessons. The children will be collating their work to present in a class museum showcase at the end of term. We will let you know the date shortly.

**Dates for the diary:**

* **Thursday 4th September** – first day of Autumn term
* **Friday 19th September** – Own clothes Day – Jeans for Genes
* **Friday 26th September** – INSET DAY
* **Thursday 2nd October –** Harvest Festival celebrations from 2.30pm
* **Monday 20th – Friday 24th October** – Personal Development week
* **Thursday 23rd October –** Halloween Disco – KS2 4-5.30pm(further information to follow)
* **Friday 24th October –** individual school photos – full school uniform
* **Friday 24th October –** last day of half term
* **Monday 27th – Friday 31st October** – HALF TERM
* **Monday 3rd November –** first day of Autumn 2
* **Friday 19th December –** last day of Autumn term

**Reminders**

* Full P.E. kit needs to be in school on the first day of every half term and we will send it home before a school holiday. Our PE days are Monday and Thursday. Please ensure everything is named and that **earrings are taken out or ear tape is in your child’s PE bag** to cover them up. If your child wears tights to school, please ensure they have a pair of socks in their bag for PE.
* It is important to be on time for school each day to start alongside the other children and to avoid lost learning as we get going immediately when the children arrive!

**Reading at Home**

We have been working particularly hard on reading in school, and it is great to see this happening at home as well! Reading is a vital part ofthe children’s education, and it is expected that they read at home (ideally every day), whether that is to an adult or independently. Reading certificates will be awarded in celebration assemblies for the number of times the children have read and to monitor this the children or adults will need to record this in their reading record, numbering each entry- 1 per day. 50 entries – bronze reading award, 100 entries – silver reading award, 200 entries – gold reading award. Reading records will need to be in the children’s book bags every day for adults in school to record one to one reading.

Our reading comprehension focus this half term is **retrieval**. As you read, it is good to pick out key information such as what a character is doing. You can then ask your child questions about information that you have picked out later.

For children reading chapter books, they may wish to challenge themselves by taking notes about the chapter they have just read, so as they can tell you about the key themes in the story.

**Homework**

* Homework is set every TUESDAY and due in every MONDAY.
* Spellings – children should practise their spellings every night using the **look, say, cover, write, check** technique. Children will receive new spellings each week.
* My Maths – Maths activities will be set each week using the My Maths website. Your child has an information letter (including log-in details) in the front of their homework book. This work will support the learning that has been taking place in the classroom. There are also lesson videos to support your child to understand when they get stuck. Please can you support your child to navigate the site?
* Mental Magicians (including times tables) Please practise for this. They are tested every Thursday and will be awarded their band if they are successful. Your child can continue to use TTRS to support learning of times tables, logins can be found in the front of their homework books. TTRS will help the children improve their mental maths for their Mental Magicians awards.

And finally, please remember that your role in your child’s education is crucial. If you would like more information or if you think you would be able to help us, just ask.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gordon and Mrs Terrill

Year 3 Teachers