**Curriculum letter Autumn Term 2023**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3 and a new school year. Your children are all settling in well and gaining confidence in Y3 routines. We have had a wonderful start and know that we are going to have an enjoyable year together.

We will explain what the class are learning about this term so that you are able to support more effectively at home.

**English – Reading**

The following key objectives for reading will be covered through our English lessons and weekly guided reading sessions:

• I can identify the key features of legends

• I understand what I am reading and can explain words in context

• I can predict what will happen next

• I can use a dictionary

• I can find books in the library using the classification system

• I can identify how language and structure contribute to meaning in instructions

You can help by reading at home with your child every day and by asking your child questions about what they have read and about what they think will happen next and why. Please try to include a wide variety of reading material; non-fiction books, newspapers (try First News which is available by subscription or locally at Waitrose and WHSmith), The Week Junior and its sister magazine, Science and Nature, other magazines and comics are all relevant. Also you could practise looking up unfamiliar words in a dictionary.

**English – Writing**

When writing across all subjects, it is expected that children will be holding a pencil correctly, forming letters accurately, using cursive handwriting and using capital letters and full stops accurately.

We will be focussing on the following key objectives this term:

• I can write instructions

• I can write a fairy story

• I can retell a legend

• I can write extended sentences with subordinate clauses

• I can plan paragraphs for my story

• I can write dialogue with inverted commas

• I can write statements

• I can write commands

There are weekly lists of spellings to learn and there will be a constant focus on developing a cursive handwriting style with letters correctly formed and of a consistent size. Please ensure that this style, and the correct pencil grip, is used for homework tasks and for any writing they may do at home.

**Maths**

We will be focusing on the following areas this term:

• Count in multiples of 50 and 100

• Find 10 or 100 more or less than a number

• Recognise the place value of each digit in a 3-digit number and read, write and order numbers up to 1000.

• Multiplication and Division: know times tables and related division facts for 2x, 5x, 10x, 3x, 4x and 8x tables, doubling and halving

• Addition and Subtraction including number bonds to 10 and 100, mental methods for addition and subtraction, formal column methods for adding and subtracting two 3-digit numbers and a 2-digit and 3-digit number.

• Shape and space: properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

• Statistics: Pictograms, Bar charts and 2-way tables

• Problem solving across all the above areas

Please help your child to learn and develop a quick recall of their times tables (including related division facts) and number bonds to 10, 20 and 100. A good knowledge of these facts will help to reduce anxiety about learning new maths processes and make calculating answers quicker. Regular questioning and discussion about the time shown on analogue clocks will also support your child to master the skill of telling the time confidently.

**Homework**

Homework will consist of the following:

* A maths activity which could take the form of a game, a worksheet or online activity. Times tables will be a specific priority as all children must sit a national online tables test in the summer term in Year 4.
* Spellings – daily 10-minute practice of the weekly spellings
* A grammar, writing or handwriting activity
* Reading – a daily reading session of 10-15 minutes.

Please support your child with their home learning (See Homework Policy on our website) and remember that learning should be meaningful and fun. If you are experiencing difficulties with homework or it is taking more than 90 minutes please do let us know.

**Science**

The first topic this term is Light and Dark then we will move onto Forces and Magnetism. We will be doing plenty of practical investigations and children will be encouraged to think of their own questions and plan investigations to answer them.

**R.E.**

We will start the term by thinking about what it feels like to belong and then introduce the Sikh religion. We will learn about joining the Khalsa and the 5 k’s. Towards the end of term, we will think about the meaning of the Christmas story for Christians.

**Computing**

We will be using Purple Mash to deliver the computing curriculum. This term topics are touch typing and coding.

**Geography**

We will look at rainforests and study where they are found, their climate and what lives there. We will look at deforestation and the problems associated with it as well as what we use from rainforests.

**History**

This term we study Ancient Egypt. We will look at what we can learn from artefacts, the importance of the River Nile and the discovery of Tutankhamun. We will also consider consider the hierarchy of Ancient Egyptian Society, mummification and the afterlife, as well as Ancient Egyptian gods and beliefs. Later in the topic, we will visit Eton College Museum where we will further deepen our knowledge and understanding of the Ancient Egyptians.

**Art and Design Technology**

In Art we will learn some techniques for shading to show tones and texture and use them to draw facial expressions. We will look at the work of Donna Khare and Dirk Dzimirsky. We will also look at mixing colours. In DT we will design and create a mechanical model of a rainforest animal.

**Music**

Berkshire Maestros will be delivering instrument lessons to the whole class. They will be teaching the children how to play the notes and they will also learn to read music notation. The cost of these lessons is subsidised by the Government but there is a small fee to pay and which includes insurance of the instruments so that they can be taken home for your child to practise. A letter will be sent out giving more details.

**P.E.**

PE will be on Mondays and Fridays. This term we will focus on throwing and catching and Invasion Games. Premier Sports will deliver the Friday PE lesson and this will have a Multi- skills then Invasion Games focus.

**French**

We will be learning to introduce and describe ourselves, practising numbers to 20 and will move on to using vocabulary associated with going to school.

**PSHE**

In PSHE the units are called ‘Being me in my world’ and ‘Celebrating difference’. In the first unit we look at identifying positive things about us and tackling new challenges positively before talking about rules and responsibilities and how our actions can affect others. In the second unit, we discuss families, feelings and difficult situations we might find on the playground and how to manage them.

We will keep you updated throughout the term via Class News on the website. In the meantime, I wish you and your child a fun and exciting Y3!

Very best wishes

Helen Wakeman and Cat Foster