

Welcome to Year 3



Dear Parents,

The children have had an exciting few days settling into their new classes and are making a great start in Year 3. Last week, the children had lots of fun exploring bubbles through a mini topic. This helped to give the children a flavour of what Year 3 will be like, gave them chance to settle back in to school life and familiarise themselves with our timetable and classroom expectations.



To begin with, the children will travel back in time to explore the fascinating world of the *Stone Age*. Although this is essentially a history topic, learning will be linked to other areas of the curriculum such as exploring light and shadows in science, creating pop up books in DT, and creating cave marking in Art-enabling the children to embed learning and deepen their knowledge and understanding. The specialist music teacher, Mr Newton, will also be supporting the children's overarching topic work, through songs and compositions.

In English, we will read a range of exciting picture books such as *Stone Age Beasts* and *Stone Age Boy* and use the film *The Croods* to explore plot and characters. We will use the characters to explore life at that time, as well as create narratives and information texts linked to our topic. Our lessons will also incorporate aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar and daily guided reading sessions will help to develop children's comprehension skills. In Year 3, we encourage children to become more independent in their approach to their learning and we know that they will inevitably want to read exciting books from home, which is great! Therefore, the expectation is that children will return and change their own reading books when they need to.

As we move into the second half of the term, we will become geographers and explore *Extreme Earth*, where we will look at the formation and impact of volcanoes, tsunamis, mud slides and earthquakes. Through this topic, we will use our DT skills to create volcanoes, explore the impact upon human and physical geography and as scientists explore rocks and fossils. The children will plan and create engaging information texts, work collaboratively to create an informative presentation, delve into *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and explore the beautiful picture book, *The Pebble in my Pocket*.

In Year 3, we use games, challenges and practical activities to explore Maths. The children will work on objectives from the National Curriculum using the *White Rose Maths* scheme. The emphasis is on using a variety of approaches to solve problems and to increase accuracy and efficiency, as well as explain their thinking and processes, using a mix of oracy and written responses. The focus of learning will be to continue practising mental calculation strategies to add and subtract numbers, as well as introduce the children to column addition and subtraction methods. We will then move onto solving number problems involving multiplication and division. Children will find that having a secure knowledge of multiplication facts (times tables) will be very useful, and this may be something that you would like to support them with at home either using *Times Table Rockstars*, games, exploring patterns in the multiplication facts or checking recall throughout the day.

Computing is used to support the wider curriculum and develop computer skills to make the children confident with technology. Learning will focus on 'Digital Literacy', where children will research and develop a topic, using search engines and a variety of software. Children will also learn how to keep themselves safe online, as we know that this is an important life skill for children to have in the modern world.

Through the RSE and PSHE curriculum, learning will focus on *creating and building healthy relationships* this term, boundaries and responsibilities. Circle Time and assembly sessions will also provide opportunities to explore topics within the wider community such as: religious festivals, local charities, significant events worldwide and life skills such as sign language and basic first aid.



The children have 3 P.E. lessons per week. On **Tuesday morning**, the children will have a games lesson led by a DFC coach (which will be outdoors (weather permitting) and a dance lesson with Joanna. On **Monday afternoon**, the lesson is led by the Class Teacher and will focus on developing teamwork and collaboration skills through games.

Homework

Homework is sent home on a Friday and is expected to be completed and returned by the following Thursday. This is linked to current learning and will usually be a Maths or an English task. We appreciate the time and support given to support learning at home, but if we can support in school in anyway, please do not hesitate to ask us.

We regularly give opportunities in school for reading through DEAR time and guided reading, however we would like pupils to read regularly at home (suggestion of 3 times a week). Each time your child reads at home, please encourage them to note this in their Reading Record, so that they know where they are up to. If Reading Record books could be brought in every Thursday, we change books if needed and they will be returned to the children on Friday.



Please feel free to bring to school a healthy snack. We can often provide a healthy snack for PRIME time, but this is dependent on the fruit we receive in school as part of our deliveries.

I am looking forward to a very productive term. If you need to contact myself for whatever reason, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office or catch me at the end of the school day. Appointments can be made if additional time is needed to discuss a matter further. Thank you very much for your continued support-it is very much appreciated.

Kind regards

Mrs Rawling