



Year Three Spring Term Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and may we wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

The teaching staff for the Year 3 team are as follows:

Mr Roe- Class teacher

Mrs Meek- TA

Mr Smurthwaite -Class teacher

Mrs Bell - TA

Mr Elliot Berry (P.E) and Mr Newton (Music)

As we have now started the Spring term, we would like to inform you of the topics that we will be covering until Easter.

Curriculum coverage:

In English, we will be following the National Curriculum's objectives, exploring a range of genres through our topic based learning. In the first half term, our topic will be **Zero Waste and South Africa** and in the second half term, our topic will be **Ancient Egypt**. In the first half term, writing will be focused around the book 'One Plastic Bag'.

In the second half of the term, writing will take a variety of forms, from instructions on making Egyptian masks to explanations of the mummification process. Children will continue to benefit from daily guided reading sessions as well as our 'Drop Everything and read' scheme.

In Maths the children will work on objectives from the new national curriculum. 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. Children will find that having a secure knowledge of multiplication facts (times tables) will be very useful, which may be something you would like to support them with at home. Please note - time is a difficult concept for some children to grasp so any support at home would be appreciated e.g. asking your child questions about the time, reading timetables/T.V. schedules. Money can also be tricky, so experimenting with how many ways your child could make a pound for instance would be beneficial. Children will be developing the use of more formal written methods in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. In the later part of the term, they will be focusing on measure, money and statistics.

In Science we will use a wide range of approaches to develop scientific skills in general and will look specifically at applying these through studying and investigating, Nutrition and Habitat, Light and Dark and, in the second half of the term, Magnets.

Computing is used to support the wider curriculum and through developing skills following the 'Switched on Computing' scheme of work. Between now and Easter, our topic is 'We are communicators' where children are given a school based email and learn how to use this to communicate effectively. Obviously, these sessions go hand in hand with E-safety and children will also learn how to keep themselves safe online and we strongly encourage parents to be extra vigilant when children are researching and using the internet. In addition to the set scheme, we will be teaching skills associated with PowerPoint, in order for the children to effectively create an electronic book, linked with our English work.

Through our RE topic, we will be investigating Hinduism and also, how Easter is celebrated in the Christian church.

P.E. lessons will take place on a Tuesday morning from DF coaching and will be outdoors (weather permitting) and Thursday mornings in the school. Please ensure your child has both an indoor and outdoor PE kit. If for any

reason your child fails to bring a kit, they will be provided with a temporary school replacement for that lesson. Information with regards to swimming will follow later in the term.

Our DT and art work are based around our South Africa and Zero waste topics. In the first half of term, we will make sculptures based on the art of the African Gakonga. We will then work on making Egyptian masks in the second half of the term.

Our work to promote Social and Emotional aspects of learning will focus on 'Going for Goals', 'Good to be Me!' and the Anti-bullying agenda. Circle Time and thinking skills sessions also provide opportunities to develop understanding of a wide range of issues. We will also be completing some work around SRE (Sexual Relationships Education). The topic will be 'The Smell Monster', and will focus on keeping ourselves clean. Proper biological terms will be used for body parts.

We will continue to develop our approach to Modern Foreign Languages by providing regular French lessons.

For music, the children will be taught by Mr Newton, a specialist teacher. Their work will cover musical terminology, notation and then applying this through learning a musical instrument.

Homework

Homework will continue to be in your child's homework book. Please make sure your child writes using a pencil - no biro, coloured pens or coloured pencils, please. Can you also please ensure homework is completed as this teaches children to work independently and take some responsibility for their own learning? This is an important life skill, which will help them in future years.

Reading - We ask that pupils read regularly at home. Your child should still be bringing home their reading record and each time your child reads to an adult or family member, please continue to sign their book as evidence of this.

Homework grid - A termly grid of activities will be given out. Each child is required to choose and complete **one** activity a week, which is to be handed in on a **Thursday**.

Spellings - Spellings will be handed out on a Monday. These can be from the Year 3 and 4 national spelling list, on patterns and rules taught or commonly occurring spelling errors. Your child will need to learn these six spellings for the following Friday. Just spending a few minutes each day, writing the word down a couple of times, will help this learning.

Other information.

Could you please make sure the children have a healthy snack and water for Prime Time? The water bottle should have a sport style lid to minimise spillage if it should accidentally be knocked over.

We look forward to a very productive term. If you need to contact us for whatever reason, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Remember, we are eager to start your child's learning each morning, so after school or via the school office, would be preferable.

Thank you, and happy New Year.

Mr Roe and Mr Smurthwaite.