

# Year Three

## Spring Term News

### 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. We have lots of exciting things happening in the Spring Term in Year 3. Mrs Delaney and Miss Tyler will continue to support the children in the classroom during the week.

## Housekeeping:

- Forest School

We are really excited to be attending Forest School this term. The children have lots of fun memories from their time in Forest School from Reception, and are looking forward to going back and learning new things. We will be linking our work in Forest School with our Geography topic this term, but will also be developing practical skills in the outdoor environment.

In order to ensure your child can enjoy Forest School fully, please ensure they have their red P.E. kit to wear (as it will be cold!) under a waterproof coat. They must also bring in wellington boots and a thicker pair of socks. You will find more information in the Forest School letter which has been sent out.

- Reading

Please continue to ensure your child reads every night. It would be beneficial to spend some time talking to your child about the book to check their comprehension and discuss their general thoughts about what they are reading. If they are a free reader (choosing their own books) they should comment themselves about what they are

reading, but should include some description of what they have read (a short sentence about what has happened/their opinion of the story so far).

- Homework

- ◇ English homework is given on Mondays to be returned on Wednesdays. Children should spend 20 minutes on their homework and the task should be consolidating knowledge from lessons. This might be a repetitive or timed task to help embed their knowledge.
- ◇ Mathematics homework is given on Wednesdays to be returned on Fridays. Again, children should spend a maximum of 20 minutes on this homework, which will help them practise skills taught in school. It would also be beneficial for you to practise times tables with your child for 5 minutes every day to help them become more fluent in using these in class.
- ◇ Weekend homework is given on Fridays to be returned on Mondays. Children should spend half an hour on this work. This might be focusing on a topic we have covered in class, a research project or about something happening in the school community.
- ◇ Spelling homework is given on Fridays, ready for a test the following Friday (folders to be returned on Wednesdays). Please help your child to practise their spellings and complete the challenge to help embed their knowledge. Children need to learn these spellings not only for the test, but also so that they can apply them in their writing across all lessons.

Children should complete homework as independently as possible, so please do let me know if they have any problems with the work set so we can go through it again. Many thanks for all your support.

- P.E.

Please could you ensure that your child has the full P.E. kit at school every day. This includes the green and red kits as well as a pair of trainers and a pair of plimsolls. It is also important that children have a pair of socks in their P.E. bag. If your child has a verruca, please send me a note as we do some dance and gymnastics bare foot.

- Miscellaneous

Children benefit from having a water bottle at school as this ensures they are hydrated during the school day and do not have to interrupt their learning to visit the water fountain. Please ensure your child's name is on their water bottle.

Children should have a Farnborough book bag as these are part of the school uniform, and fit their homework and reading folders well. Other book bags do not fit into our bag storage very easily, making it difficult for children to store their bags tidily. Again, please ensure all bags are clearly named.

## Curriculum Topics:

As **writers**, we will look at a variety of genres, analysing their key features and writing our own versions. We will write our own diary recounts, focusing on writing from another perspective, create our own stories about imagined worlds - where we will think carefully about description to add detail. We will also be writing our own myths and legends by reading Roman myths. Finally, we will be looking at poetry, with a focus on performing these.

As **mathematicians**, we will practise addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Our times table focus will be on the 3, 4 and 8 times tables and we will continue to consolidate our knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will develop our knowledge of fractions, measure, time, shape and statistics (graphs). Problem solving activities will be running throughout all of these concepts.

As **Scientists**, we will focus on two different topics this term. In the first half of the term, we are learning about magnets. We will conduct experiments to help us learn about different magnetic materials and think about the uses of magnets.

In the second half of the term, we will be looking at teeth and healthy eating. In this topic we will focus on the importance of a balanced diet and differences between animals and their dietary requirements. We will be conducting a number of experiments to find out about how to look after our teeth.

As **Geographers**, we will be learning about the weather. We will look at the different climates of the world before focusing on the weather in our local environment, measuring the temperature and wind speed. We will also learn about extreme weathers and how they are caused.

As **Historians**, we will be learning about the Iron Age, following on from our Stone Age and Bronze Age topic before Christmas. We will be looking for evidence about what life was like during these times, and using secondary sources of data. We will learn about how life changed as new ideas were discovered. In the second half of the term we will begin our Romans in Britain topic, linking this to the end of the Iron Age. We will discuss the differences between Celtic and Roman life and look at notable people from this time period, such as Boudicca.

As **Artists**, the children have enjoyed working in the style of Kandinsky and shall continue to look at this artist for inspiration when creating abstract pieces in pastels and watercolours. The children shall also look at the 'Pop Art' movement and present work using the computer and printing techniques.

As **programmers**, we will be focusing on computer safety when using the Internet. We will discuss who you should share information with and what to do if you see something you don't like. We will also focus on learning about coding, playing games to support our knowledge of how computer programs work.

Mrs Saunders and I will continue teaching **French** this term. These lessons include lots of role plays, games and other fun activities to help the children learn simple French vocabulary.

**R.E.** this term will focus on Bible stories, explaining the lessons Jesus taught Christians by telling these stories.

**P.E.** Year 3 have P.E. on Thursdays (with Mrs Holmes). We will be focusing on gymnastics and ball games in our lessons this term.

As **musicians**, we will continue learning djembe drumming with Mr Hughes.

As **members of our community**, we will be considering our own dreams and goals, thinking about what we want to achieve this year. We will also think about what makes us healthy, which links to our Science topic of Teeth and Eating.

# Events and dates for your diary

## Forest School

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

## E-Safety Parent Talk

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

## Sleeping Beauty Theatre (at school)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

## Half Term

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

## World Book Day

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

## Parents Evening

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

## Vista Class Photographs

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

## End of Term

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

The Year 3 team are very excited for a busy Spring Term! We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable term with your children.