

Tuesday 8th September 2015

Year 3 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had a lovely start to the new school year and have enjoyed meeting many of you in the playground. We have been busy getting to know your enthusiastic children and getting stuck into the routines of Year 3. All children have settled well into Key Stage 2 and appear to have enjoyed their first few days in their new mixed classes. The children are forming new friendships and will be given lots of opportunities to work and play with their old friends, as we will frequently mix as a year group.



This letter will give a quick overview of what we will be focussing on over the next few weeks and some information on the expectations of Year 3.

Maths - We will be starting the new term with a unit of work on number involving ordering 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers, partitioning using thousands, hundreds, tens and units, and reading and writing numbers in both figures and words. We then move onto addition and subtraction where we will be using mental strategies to estimate and calculate, moving onto written strategies to solve larger number problems accurately. As in Year 2 the children will be working in mixed maths groups from this week onwards, we do this to give them the challenge and support they need.

Literacy - This week we will start work on the famous author Roald Dahl. We will discuss and recount many of his books, describing why his books are so popular. The children will next be writing letters to Roald Dahl asking him questions that they want to know about his life, his stories and his characters. We have also started reading 'The Twits' as a whole class and will use this as an inspiration for writing. As part of our literacy we also complete dedicated SPaG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) lessons. Your child will receive a spelling book soon, which will have detailed instructions inside and words/letter patterns to learn for weekly tests. We will also be continuing with regular taught handwriting lessons using 'Penpals' most days. Attached to this newsletter is some information supporting Penpals, so you can support your child at home with handwriting.



Science - The children really impressed us yesterday with their enthusiasm for our first 'Rocks and Soils' topic lesson and enjoyed making some chocolate rocks. Over the next few weeks we will be describing rocks, classifying rocks and learning about the 3 different types of rocks; igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. We will also be testing rocks for permeability and strength.

Topic - Our Stone Age topic is underway and the children have been thinking about what they already know about the Stone Age and what they would like to find out. We will also be learning about the importance of the Stone Age and how this shaped the world, putting the Stone Age in time with other historical periods, identifying what we know about the Stone Age from evidence and handling artefacts. We also have a Stone Age drama workshop coming up to reinforce the topic. Please do support your child with further research at home and do bring in anything to share with the class.

Art & Design - We will be linking into our Stone Age topic for some art inspiration over the next few weeks, specifically looking at cave paintings and understanding how the paintings were used to pass on messages. We will also be creating some Autumn collages using natural objects found outside.

PE - This term we will be completing netball and gymnastics. Our PE days are most likely to be on a Wednesday and Thursday but we recommend your child has a named PE kit in school all week as the timetable frequently changes. Year 3 will have their opportunity to go swimming in the Spring term.



Homework - All children should have now had a homework book with detailed instructions inside. Thank you for the support with homework, the initial standard is very high so please keep up the hard work. The homework is given on a Thursday so that if there are any problems the children have time before the weekend to ask their teacher or borrow books, etc. Please don't hesitate to let us know.

Home Reading - All children have been assessed with their individual reading last week and have a new reading record. It is expected that they should read every evening and have the reading record signed by an adult. In KS2 any children who fail to read or bring in their reading record will have to stay in for 10 minutes at lunchtime to ensure they are reading daily. In year 3 daily reading also contributes to the children's Friday treat of Golden Time!

Hong Kong Phooey curriculum targets - All Year 3 children will have HKP targets to work towards in maths, reading and writing. We are in the process of assessing these targets and will let you know any areas you can support with at home in due course via the reading record. The majority of children will have a times table maths target. To support them to learn their relevant times tables please practise verbally and with written methods. The children are expected to state the whole number sentence when reciting times tables ($1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, etc) not just counting in the times table (2, 4, 6, 8, etc). Please practise all the way up to $12 \times$ the given table and at random out of order ($2 \times =$, $9 \times =$, $12 \times =$, $3 \times =$). Times tables are invaluable for many areas of maths so we really want to push this. We will also support this target in school to ensure all children achieve their first target certificate soon.

Parent Volunteers - We would love to have parent volunteers in to support the children. If you are able to spare any amount of time to support with listening to readers from both classes, support/lead with gardening activities or share other skills you have then please do let us know. We would love to have you on board!

Class representatives - The class representatives are parent/carer volunteers who will attend PTA meetings, circulate information from the class teacher and meet new parents. Please do come forward if you wish to volunteer for the role. The PTA invite all to attend their meetings, not just class representatives.

We hope to see you at the Curriculum Forecast afternoon on 14th Sept at 2.30pm, where we will discuss the forthcoming year in more detail and give you a handout supporting the year. We will be in touch soon about trips, until then keep checking the Year 3 class page on the school website for updates and photographs.

| <u>Diary Dates</u> | |
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| 14.9.15 | Curriculum forecast for parents 2.30pm |
| 12.10.15 13.10.15 | Parents Evenings |
| 22.10.15 | Harvest assembly |

Miss Hallam & Miss Coward