

Monday 9th September 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Year Three! Your children have settled back into school really well and it is great to see how enthusiastic they are about their learning. I would like to provide you with some information about routines in our Year Three class. As well as this I have included an envelope containing resources to support reading, spelling and basic maths skill.

Reading

Your child has been given a school reading book and a reading record. Please try to listen to them read at home each day and write a note in their reading record to show this (it does not have to be a whole book – a few pages will be fine). Your child will have the opportunity to change their reading book every day, if necessary, and will need to make sure that they bring their reading record and book into school every day.

It is also really important to discuss books with your child, to make sure they understand what they have read. In the resources envelope, I have included a bookmark, with examples of questions that you could ask your child about the texts they read at home.

In Year Three, we also have a “Reading Road Around Britain” challenge. Each time your child brings in their reading book and reading record, showing they have read at home they will progress around the road, gathering rewards as they reach different stages of their journey.

Spellings and Grammar

Your child will be taught strategies and rules for spellings and will also take part in grammar activities. They may be given homework relating to this, which will be sent home in a homework book. Please encourage your child to complete these activities, as they are an essential part of their learning. Their homework book includes information about the spelling strategies that we teach, as well as the National Curriculum list of spellings for Year Three and Four. A laminated copy of this spelling list has also been included in the resources envelope.

Mathematics

Times tables and number bonds will be tested each week on either Thursday or Friday. The children will begin with number bonds and then work through their tables. As they complete the tests they will earn stickers. Your child will be told each week which test they will be taking the following week. However, if you are unsure, please do not hesitate to ask. By the end of Year Three the expected standard is to know facts for 3, 4 and 8 times tables (as well as 2, 5 and 10 times tables from Year Two). Your child’s homework book contains a times table chart for these facts and this is also provided in the resources envelope.

Mental arithmetic is an essential skill for maths work. Therefore, I would also encourage you to support your child in developing quick recall of doubles of numbers to 20 (and the related halving facts) and addition / subtraction of numbers within the range 0-20.

You have also been provided with a copy of the “**Year Three Arithmetic Methods**” booklet. This details the progressive strategies that children will be taught across the four number operations. Children need to be able to use these methods to meet with end of year requirements for Year Three.

TOPICS

A copy of the full curriculum overview can be found on the Year 3 class webpage, however please find below a brief outline of the topics to be covered throughout the year:

1. Autumn Term

- **“Our Active Planet”**, covering geographic study of volcanoes and earthquakes, as well as Rocks & Soils in science
- **“The Stone Age to the Iron Age”**, covering historical enquiry into the changes that occurred during this pre-historic period and Light in science. As part of this topic I intend to take the class on a visit to the Iron Age hillfort at the top of Bredon Hill.

2. Spring Term

- **“Academy for Witches and Wizards”**, which will include the science topic of Magnets and Forces, as well as descriptive writing and a Design Technology project.
- **“What have the Romans ever done for us?”**, covering the Roman invasion of Britain and the technologies that the Romans brought with them. As part of this topic I am hoping that the class can visit the remains of a Roman Villa, in Gloucestershire.

3. Summer Term

- **“Take One Picture”**. This is a whole school focus on a painting in London’s National Gallery and will culminate in a showcase of work across the school.

PE times

Our main PE session will be on Wednesday afternoon, taught by Mrs Annis. For PE sessions, your child will need a full PE kit, which should be clearly labelled and include footwear suitable for outdoor and indoor activities. Please check these regularly to make sure that they still fit! I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the correct P.E. kit for our school consists of red shorts and a white t-shirt. During the colder months, your child will be permitted to wear a track-suit, which should be a dark colour (black / navy etc.) Jewellery, including earrings, must not be worn for PE.

Swimming

Year Three will take part in a series of swimming lessons, with Mrs Annis, from Friday 22nd November 2019 for three lessons. The children will then be taken for a further four lessons from Friday 17th January 2020. Further information about these sessions will be sent home closer to the dates.

General Reminders

As the weather gets cooler, please make sure that your child has a suitable coat in school with them and that it is clearly labelled.

For Art lessons this year, we are asking all children to bring in an old t-shirt, which will fit over, and protect, their school uniform. Please ensure that your child brings this into school as soon as possible

If you have any questions after this meeting or throughout the year, please do not hesitate to see me at the end of a school day. Alternatively, you can telephone school and leave a message.

Yours Sincerely
Mrs Baker