



Autumn Term – Curriculum Newsletter

Year 3

English

Speaking and Listening

In year 3, children will be encouraged to continue to speak articulately and in full sentences. There will be plenty of opportunities within the curriculum for the children to explore the English language and become confident speakers to different audiences, with opportunities for discussions, presentations, performances, role play/improvisations and debates. Children will also be encouraged to articulate and justify their answers and opinions. These skills will be supported by their daily reading opportunities within school.

Reading

This term, the children will be reading “Bill’s New Frock” by Anne Fine and “The Abominables” by Eva Ibbotson. We will be continuing to develop the children’s ability to “read between the lines”, retrieve answers from the text, summarise what has happened, predict what is going to happen, and widen their vocabulary.

Writing

We’re going to start by exploring **stories with familiar settings** which will involve: writing short descriptions of known places, creating and describing characters and comparing familiar settings. We’ll then move on to looking at **traditional stories, fables, myths and legends** which will involve: sequencing key events from a fable or myth, describing key characters, using story boards, lists and maps to sequence key events, and planning and writing their very own fable/myth.

Our topic for the Autumn term is “**Scavengers and Settlers**”. During this topic, we will be focusing on the following subjects: History, Art, Geography and Design Technology. We will be learning about the following things:

Geography – Using maps to locate where historical events have taken place. Compare and contrast aerial photos of historical locations over time. Describe and compare different features of human and physical geography.

DT – Making Stone Age jewellery and building a model of a hillfort. Making realistic plans, identifying processes, equipment and materials needed to complete the projects. Evaluating our designs/finished models and suggesting improvements that could be made.

History – How to ask questions to find out more about periods of history. Develop understanding of chronology by beginning to realise that the past can be divided into different periods of time e.g. Stone Age, Bronze Age and the Iron Age. Compare our lives with the lives of people who lived during this time.

Art – Looking at why cave paintings were created and recreating our own. Making our own Stone Age pottery and jewellery, looking at patterns and designs and using different materials and choosing appropriate tools to make markings.

In this topic, we will be using the following vocabulary.

Topic words – Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, prehistoric, hunt, gather, battle, soldier, hillforts, farming, timeline, chronological, map.

If possible, please talk about these words at home to ensure your child has a good understanding of their meaning.

Maths

In Maths, we will start the year by looking at number skills. These form the foundation of all maths and so it's really important that the children work hard to develop these from the beginning. We will start by looking at **place value** (what each digit in a number represents). Then, we'll move on to **addition and subtraction**. And finally, **multiplication and division**. Children have access to TT Rockstars to work on improving their times tables and we'd also encourage the use of other online games/activities to improve their number skills e.g. BBC Bitesize Year 3.

Science

In Science, we will be covering **Rocks** over the first half term. This will entail grouping and comparing different types of rocks based on their physical properties and exploring how fossils are formed. During the second half of the term we will then study **Light**, where we will be experimenting with shadows, finding patterns in the way that the size of shadows can change. We will also be learning about how we can protect our skin and eyes from the harmful rays of the sun.

PSHE/Peacemakers

We will be really promoting **Growth Mindset** this term, which looks at developing perseverance and resilience in children, especially when they are finding something difficult. As well as this, we will be providing children with plenty of opportunities to discuss their experience of the last few months during lockdown and invite them to share their thoughts and feelings.

PE

This term, children will be doing a mix of PE topics (Multi-skills, Boot Camp, African Dance, and Mighty Movers) and games to settle back into school.

We have PE on a **Monday** and **children should come to school in their PE kit**. Children are required to wear a white t-shirt, black shorts and black pumps for indoor sessions and for outdoor sessions to also have a suitable jumper, tracksuit bottoms, and trainers.

RE

In RE, we will be exploring the harvest festival, thinking about ways we can care for our environment, and then looking at the similarities and differences between different religions including Christianity and Islam.

Homework

A **homework grid is attached to this letter**. We ask that your child can choose one thing to complete every fortnight. They will be given a certificate for completing their homework, and we ask that homework is handed in every other **Friday**, where we will celebrate your child's work together as a class. Your child may need your assistance to complete some tasks and we ask that if they are researching anything online, that they are supervised. We have lots of resources in school to help your child complete their homework. If there are any questions on this, please contact the Year 3 team and we will be more than happy to help you.

We also ask that you are **reading** with your child 3 times a week. Even 5 – 10 minutes of reading at home can really make a difference in their learning. We will be changing reading books every Friday, so please ensure that books are brought in at this time so they can be changed ready for the next week.

Key Dates

End of topic presentation of work – Date to be confirmed nearer time.