



## Class 3 welcome letter (2.9.19)

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To parents and carers,

Welcome to the start of the new, exciting academic year in Class 3 (and to juniors for some of you), with Miss Shepherd and Mr Lockwood. Many of you will already know me, as I was lucky enough to have your child in my class last year or in a previous year, but welcome to all the children and parents new to Class 3 this year!

Children will say goodbye to parents on the playground and line up on the MUGA in Line 3 when the bell rings. This allows us to enter school together in a purposeful, calm manner. In class they will either have a morning activity to complete or will read their own reading book independently. The activities will be rotated to suit the needs of the children and will link with learning they have undertaken. Thank you for your support with this.

In order to get your child's learning off to a quiet, focussed start, I would ask that if you need to speak to me at length or about a non-day-to-day issue you schedule an appointment to discuss this after school. This will then allow the children to engage in positive learning with my support, which will ensure they get off to a good start to the day.

I am looking forward to working in partnership with you, to help your child work, grow and achieve their full potential. An effective relationship between school and home enables your child to thrive, so please feel free to approach me with concerns, enquiries or offers of assistance throughout the year.

We will be using a creative thematic approach to our learning, linking together our knowledge and understanding with a variety of writing opportunities and immersion in exciting and interesting reading material. The topic that we will focus upon in the autumn term is Rock of Ages (covering the Stone Age, Iron Age and the Bronze Age), so we will be developing our understanding of prehistoric times, rocks and contrasting historical times with our modern world.

Guided reading sessions will take place throughout the week. As part of this learning we will undertake whole class reading (where everyone focusses on the same text), as well as small group work (where children will be supported by an adult to develop reading strategies and comprehension skills) and independent reading activities. In conjunction with this approach, we will have regular SPaG and handwriting sessions which focus on spelling rules, weekly spellings and reinforce the literacy skills we are embedding throughout the year. Children may change their reading books independently when needed. You can support at home by reading whenever possible and helping children to practise their weekly spellings. Please note that we endeavour to check reading diaries when handed in by your child, but we do not comment in them as we use guided reading as a basis for our assessments, the work that you do at home complements your child's reading in school. The changing of colour bands will be assessed in line with the objectives taught in guided reading and children will be informed when they are ready for their next challenge.

In maths we will be focusing upon developing our mental calculation skills, particularly around multiplication, solving problems and reasoning. Throughout lessons the importance and relevance of maths in our day to day lives will be linked and where possible maths will be given a context so that

your child can link this with their own experiences. You can support at home by helping your child practice their timetable facts starting with 4x, 9x, 6x (2, 5 and 10 times tables should now be fluently recalled). It would help your child to talk about patterns in the times tables, practise counting/chanting and focussing on learning in chunks (little and often). It would also be helpful to reinforce maths in everyday situations e.g. whilst shopping thinking about payment and change, looking at timetables for transport consolidating their understanding of time, discussing signs whilst on journeys to highlight the need for understanding direction and measure etc.

On Wednesday afternoons children will be taught by a range of teachers, delivering specific subjects (I will deliver PSHE, Mr Bond will deliver ICT, Miss Hayton will deliver DT and Mrs Sayles French). Our PE days are on Monday and Friday, so please ensure your child has appropriate PE kit for these days and that any earrings are removed. Miss Lockwood will deliver all PE sessions, in her role as Sports Coach.

Homework is a great way for you to support your child, so please look out for the information about homework activities for this term. I look forward to seeing your child's work. Spellings will be sent home on a Friday, to be tested on the subsequent Friday. Spelling books will remain in school, but their individual spelling logs (where any incorrect spellings from their test will be logged so you can support with this at home) will be sent home after the test. If you could ensure these are returned in time for the subsequent test it would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

As we encourage children to become more independent in juniors, it is their responsibility to hand in homework, reading diaries and to manage their belongings, including drink bottles and PE kits. Thank you for your support with this. Throughout the year we will be working hard to help children understand and assess their own learning. This will help them to develop ownership and responsibility for their own learning. We will continue to emphasise growth mind-set and qualities such as perseverance, resilience and respect. This will help the children understand they can achieve, that making mistakes and being unable to achieve something instantly is ok. We will celebrate your child's successes, build positive relationships and will be working hard to help children have a greater understanding of their own mental and emotional wellbeing.

Effort and behaviour is rewarded through the use of golden time each week. This will take place on a Friday afternoon, when children can bring in a game/book from home. Due to limited storage in school their item should fit into their book bag, so it can be stored there until the appropriate time. Please do not allow your child to bring anything of great value into school as we cannot be responsible for the item, should it become damaged or lost. Thanks for your support with this. Golden time will start in Week 2 - Friday 13th September 2019.

As you know, learning is not just about writing or maths, but about creating a rounded, well balanced individual, prepared for the challenges of the world. With your support, I know we will be able to help your child develop into a caring, collaborative and creative learner. I look forward to working with you, celebrating your child's successes and having a fantastic year.

Kind regards,

Miss K Shepherd & Mr J Lockwood

Class Teacher & Teaching Assistant

