



What's the problem?

Autumn 2017

The autumn topic for Year 3 is STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths) based - entitled "What's the problem?". Children will be encouraged to identify a "problem" and then using skills within the STEM set, to find solutions. Sometimes this might be inventing technology which doesn't yet exist, but importantly to not give up just because the solution isn't very obvious.

Using 'trains' as our focus, we will investigate why trains were thought to be a good idea. How they were first engineered, how they use forces for motion (our science topic) and then move through time to the present day, the Crossrail, and then beyond. What will our trains look like in the future?

There will be a couple of trips out during the term and details of these will follow once they have been confirmed.

Literacy - During Year 3 children will be encouraged to become independent, fluent and enthusiastic readers who read widely and frequently, developing their vocabulary. They should be developing their understanding and enjoyment of stories, poetry and plays and learn to read silently. They should also be developing their knowledge and skills in reading non-fiction about a wide range of subjects. With support they should be learning to justify their views about what they have read.

They will have plenty of opportunity to develop their writing skills and handwriting using a variety of genre. Children should recognise that the written word does not necessarily follow how we speak. We will be having a weekly spelling test and they should be able to spell all the HFW and common exception words from Key Stage 1.

Maths - Year 3 will have the opportunity to become more fluent using whole numbers and the four operations, including number facts and place value. This will enable children to develop efficient written and mental methods and perform calculations accurately with increasingly large whole numbers.

We will also look at simple fractions and decimal place value. We aim, through investigations, to develop mathematical reasoning so they can analyse shapes and their properties, and confidently describe the relationships between them. We will have plenty of opportunity to use measuring instruments (rulers, scales, capacity). We will start having weekly times tables challenges to encourage learning of their tables.

PE - we will have an indoor (Tuesday) and outdoor (Thursday) session each week. Please make sure that you have your full kit including footwear, and hoodie/joggers for when it starts to get colder. If possible, please remove earrings before coming to school so that they don't get lost. Thank you.

DT/Art - we hope to be able to construct our train of the future using different materials

Computing - we will begin to use Scratch online, in addition to other Microsoft packages (word, excel, powerpoint). We will also introduce BBC Dance Mat to the children which encourages them to use all their fingers when using the keyboard. Scratch and BBC Dance Mat can be accessed at home.

RE - we will continue to follow the Come & See syllabus (Homes, Visitors, Journeys).