



Class 3 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn Term 1 2017



Welcome Back!



Welcome to Class 3! The children have made a great start to the new academic year and are enjoying our new theme of 'The Big Story'. We are splitting the week between us with Mrs Ilott teaching the class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings and Mrs Sawyer teaching the second session on Wednesday afternoon and all of Thursday and Friday. Mrs Stephens and Mrs Jackson are teaching the first session on a Wednesday to cover PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time and Mrs Jackson is supporting the class all week. We have a busy term ahead; further details are included below. If you are able to help with school trips and would like to come along, please let us know what days you are free - mums, dads, grandparents all welcome! If there is any area of the curriculum where you have some expertise and feel that you could support the learning of the children please come in to have a chat with one of us. Equally, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to have a quick chat or arrange a time when we can meet.

Mrs Ilott and Mrs Sawyer



In **English** lessons we have started to use precise nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs when writing poems. We will have a particular focus on using a wider range of conjunctions in our writing and Year 4 children will be using fronted adverbial phrases marked by a comma in their sentences, for example: 'Sitting quietly under the tree, Thomas watched the football match'. Apostrophes will also be used for possession. The children will continue to orally rehearse their sentences before they write and re-read to check for meaning and to make improvements to their work. They will be making increasing use of dictionaries to check spellings and to find the meanings of words in their reading.

We will be reading "The Sheep-pig" by Dick King-Smith as a whole class text. If the children have a copy of this book, they are welcome to bring it into school to read at the same time as the whole class session.

When the Y3 children have mastered a neat, joined handwriting style they will earn their 'pen licence' and start to write with a school handwriting pen. Year 4s will continue to develop a fluent, neat handwriting style.

Guided reading takes place daily with children working round set activities: reading to the teacher, practising handwriting, spelling tasks, independent reading and completing comprehension tasks.

The children will also continue to bring a **reading** book home. We expect the children to read at least five times each week, regularly reading with/to an adult and this to be recorded in their reading record. They will have a **weekly spelling pattern** to investigate and will be tested each **Wednesday**.



During **Maths** lessons the children will be building on their place value knowledge – to three and four digits. We will move on to learning to add and subtract numbers mentally – with three digits for Year 3 and four digits for Year 4. The children will be using formal written methods for addition and subtraction and using the inverse calculation to check their work. During the half term we will be practising counting in multiples of 50 and 100 for Year 3 and 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000 for Year 4. The Year 4 pupils will also be learning to use Roman numerals to 100 and round numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1000 and to round decimals. We will end the half term by working on telling the time. Pupils in Year 3 should be able to tell the time to the nearest minute by the end of the year. Learning to tell the time can be challenging and children benefit from regular practise of this skill at home. If you would like any advice on how to help your child with this please just ask. Year 4 pupils will be learning to tell the time using analogue and digital clocks and 12 and 24-hour clocks. Please remember that **Mathletics** is a great way to practise the maths we are learning in class and to revisit topics already learnt. The KIRF challenge for this half term is learning the three times table for Year 3 and the six times table for Year 4.

Our **RE** topic is 'The Big Story.' We will be learning about the story of the Bible, looking at simple timelines, stories from the Old and New Testament and investigating concepts such as Creation and Gospel.





Our **PSHE** this term is all about “New Beginnings”. We will be looking at rights and responsibilities, devising a class charter, identifying our achievements and facing new challenges positively using a ‘growth mindset.’



The Year 3 children will begin to learn **French** using ‘La Jolie Ronde’ scheme. They will be learning French numbers and simple greetings. This will be taught in a fun, creative way via singing, music and games. Year 4 will learn the French names for parts of the body and facial features as well as revise vocabulary learned in Year 3.

The children have the opportunity to learn the ukulele during the academic year. A specialist teacher will be teaching the children each week. We have a set of ukuleles which we share with Class 4 and they are sent home on alternate Wednesdays. It is important that they are returned on Monday of the following week so that they can be used in the lesson.



In our **Geography** topic, we will be looking at UK features, using maps, globes and digital mapping, including counties, regions and UK cities. We will also be identifying lines of latitude and longitude, including the Equator and Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer.

Computing for this half term will focus on word processing **computing** skills. We will be learning how to change the font and become more confident with finding our way around the key-board. The children will also practise saving and retrieving work from the network. In addition, we will be using the computers and iPads to research topics across the curriculum.

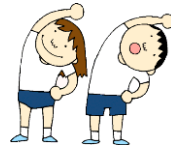


In **Science**, we will be making careful observations and classifying rocks into groups. In order to help us do this we will be carrying out fair tests to find out about some of their properties. We will then learn about how fossils are formed through research and complete this topic by studying soil and learning what soil is made from.

Linked to our topic work, in **Art and Design**, we will be focusing on drawing. The children will be developing their techniques using a range of materials and recording their observations in their sketchbooks.



PE lessons for this half term will take place on Tuesday and Thursday. Tuesday PE will be ball skills. We will have PE lessons outside as often as possible so trainers, tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt can be brought into school as the weather gets colder. PE kit needs to be in school all half term. We will only send kit home if it needs a wash.



Homework
In KS2 the children have a fortnightly writing task to complete for homework. They will be given clear guidelines on the elements that they need to include to complete this work. This homework should take approximately 45 minutes. Of course, if your child would like to spend longer than this that is fine. This needs to be returned by the following **Wednesday**.



In addition to this the children are expected to read daily. Please make a note in their reading record each time they read with an adult as each Thursday we check the reading records and reward children who have read at least five times with a team point. The children also need to practise their KIRF each week. The spelling test and KIRF challenge are on **Wednesdays**.

In Key Stage 2 the children who like to have a school **snack** at playtime pay each day. We encourage them to think about the coins they need and if they need any change how much they should receive. Snacks now cost 30p per day. The children can either bring 30p each day, or £1.50 at the beginning of the week in a purse or wallet. They can keep any change in their classroom tray.



Mon: Return ukulele.
Tues: PE – Ball skills.
Wed: Writing homework sent home fortnightly– returned following Wednesday.
KIRF Challenge.
Spelling test and new spellings sent home.
Thurs: Reading Records checked. PE - Gymnastics

