

Welcome to Year 3

Staff in the classroom

- Mrs Rosamund Ashton (Mondays and Tuesdays) and Mrs Caroline Bane (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays)
- Mrs Dawn Scott (PPA Cover Teacher - Tuesday and Thursday afternoons respectively)
- Mrs Sarah Haigh, Mrs Jenny Smith, Ms India Runham, Ms Jade Westley (TAs)

What is year 3 like?

A 'step up' from year 2.

Moving up a key stage will be an adjustment for your children. The curriculum becomes more demanding as it builds on the foundations laid down in key stage 1, introduces new concepts and learning strategies, and encourages children to draw on and develop a broad range of skills and ways of thinking.

We have high expectations of children throughout the school. This is emphasised in KS2 in terms of the children being expected to set an example to those younger than themselves (for example when reading with Reception class) and being encouraged to work and act with greater independence.

The school day and timetable are also different, which can feel like quite a big change to get used to at first.

Some of the things that are different in KS2 -

- A slightly longer school day, finishing at 3:30pm
- Morning playtime is at 10:40am with the rest of KS2
- Children need to bring in their own fruit for morning snack
- Children will begin to learn the recorder
- Children will begin to learn French
- Children are able to join choir and orchestra
- Year 3 present the school Harvest Festival (Tuesday 10th October 2.30 pm)
- Year 3 sort the school post box at Christmas

Routines

At the start of the day: Children are expected to put their book-bags on their pegs (fruit in the book bag), enter the classroom sensibly, and work quietly on their "morning challenge" while the register is taken.

At the end of the day: we will escort the children outside and will ask them to point out where their family are standing before they leave the red gate.

Please let whichever member of staff is at the gate know of any different "Going home" arrangements and please remember to call the office and let them know if arrangements change during the school day.

Topics

Topics covered will be: What happened in 1066?; A different place (Inverness); Mighty Mountains; Stone Age to Iron Age; The history of our school; Who lives here?.

We have a visit arranged to Hedingham castle on 3rd October. Last year we were able to visit the Cambridge Mosque as part of our work on Islam in RE and we hope to do so again in the summer term.

There will be a class assembly on Friday 17th November.

Reading

Every morning we have whole class guided reading time where one group will go to the library to get their books changed and to read with a TA and the rest of the children stay in class to look at our class book. We are also looking for parent volunteers each morning from 9:00-9:25 to hear a group read each day.

The focus in KS2 is much more on inference, deduction and prediction, so when reading with your child, please try to ask questions to assist and check their understanding. Moving through the book bands will now be much more based on levels of comprehension than on decoding.

As the half term progresses, this will change slightly as Year 3 groups also begin to read with Reception children.

Maths

Autumn Term: place value- working with numbers up to 1000, placing a 3 digit number on a numberline, addition and subtraction- introduction of column addition and subtraction, multiplication and division

Spring Term: length and perimeter, fractions- counting on a fraction numberline, ordering non-unit fractions, mass and capacity, multiplication

Summer Term: fractions- unit and non-unit fractions of a set of objects, money, telling the time, 2D and 3D shape, statistics, multiplication

PSHE

We have been making progress on making the PSHE curriculum more accessible to parents in line with Gillian Keegan's request earlier this year. You will find a summary of the content of the Year 3 topics on the PSHE subject page on the website and we have put out some of the picture books used in Year 3. The most challenging is 'Some Secrets Should Never be Kept' by Jayneen Sanders which you might wish to look at. We read this in the Spring Term in the context of Personal Safety and the difference between a secret that feels safe and unsafe. We will let you know in advance the day we read it to the children. We often use picture books or slides as a way into a discussion.

PE

Year 3 PE days are Tuesday and Thursday. Children should come to school wearing their named PE kit on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This should be:

- A pair of socks, suitable footwear, shorts and their house t- shirt or a white t-shirt and, as appropriate, warm outer clothes, for example a tracksuit or leggings and a sweatshirt (not a school sweatshirt)
- No jewellery - ear studs should be removed
- Long hair tied back.

Homework

The children will be expected to read at home for 10 minutes on a daily basis and, hopefully, to practise their recorder playing at least four times a week in accordance with the pieces learnt in the lesson.

There will also be home challenges posted on the class page of the website each half term. These are optional activities to do at home and generally are brought in to show the rest of the class during the final week of each half term.

The Times tables that we focus on are 2,3,4,5,8,10. As we get nearer to the Year 4 times tables testing, any additional practice at home would be brilliant.

We follow a spelling program where words are not sent home but worked on and tested in school.

Communication

We will be outside at the end of every school day if you wish to discuss anything, and we will endeavour to keep you informed of anything significant that has happened with your child during the day.

Should you wish to discuss anything at greater length please speak to us to arrange a suitable time.

Thank you for coming; we look forward to a great year of teaching and learning!