



Year 3 Curriculum Letter
Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is to provide you with information about the work your children will be doing this Autumn term.

Language:

The children will learn most of their formal English in small matched level groups through the Junior English programme. This will encourage them to develop their writing and reading skills and will focus on grammar, spelling, reading and comprehension. The children will have learnt most of their formal English through the Ruth Miskin Literacy Programme (Read, Write Inc or Comprehension) and may continue to do so. Within this programme they will continue to learn how to read using phonics before moving onto reading longer texts in a whole class setting once they are fluent readers.

Reading:

We encourage the children to read a variety of books that will include home reading, shared reading in the class, library books and also books that they have written themselves. We will be focusing on comprehension to enable all children to have a greater understanding of the text. The children will have the opportunity to change their library book on a regular basis, as well as take a class book home each week. They also have a Reading Record that you must complete each time your child reads to you. This is an excellent way for us to track how much supported reading the children are doing with an adult. We ask that you aim to read with your child for a short period of time each evening.

Speaking and Listening:

Children will have opportunities to talk to build their speaking and listening skills through a range of planned activities, such as Partner Talk, drama, and Philosophy. The latter is an excellent opportunity for the children to actively participate in a discussion on a range of topics, which has a profound effect on their spoken English. They will also be given the opportunity to talk about their work in other areas of the curriculum, especially to discuss ways in which they can improve their work.

Maths:

Following a lengthy review CHAT have decided, in light of the 2014 National Curriculum to adapt the Mathematics scheme of work to ensure all children are prepared with the appropriate skills to develop and progress in line with, and exceed National expectations. The Maths team have devised a robust medium term plan for each year group using a variety of resources from the best mathematics schemes available, including MMS, Singapore Maths, Rising Stars and Bond's No Nonsense Maths. From this, teachers are able to plan succinct lessons, personalising learning in each of the areas of Maths (Number, Measure, Geometry and Statistics).

Science:

As part of the new curriculum the children will be learning about animals including humans. Children will learn about cells and the various systems in the body. They will also investigate what keeps humans and animals healthy, focusing on diet and exercise. By the end of the unit, the children will be able to describe cell and tissues, explore different muscle movements and name different food groups.

ICT:

During ICT sessions, children will be coding their own animations using the interactive Scratch software suite on the laptops and iPads. They will create an animation all the way from the design and concept stage, through to sprite motion, testing and debugging.

Religious Education:

In RE this term the children will be learning about Islam. The purpose is to familiarise, not proselytise; to be descriptive, not prescriptive. All religions will be discussed with a tone of respect and balance. Children will learn about the importance of Mohammed, and get the chance to interview a person of Muslim and non-Muslim faith about the daily life of their religions.

Music:

The children will have the opportunity to make their first steps in learning to play the recorder, and will become familiar with basic elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre, etc.). Children will also begin to look at different notation in music writing.

History:

In History the children will be learning about Ancient Greece. They will learn about what life was like in Athens, and how this compares to life there now. The children will also learn about the different Gods and Goddesses, as well as wars that took place in Ancient Greece. Later in the term they will go on to learn about Ancient China, including why famous landmarks were built, what Chinese beliefs were and how Chinese inventions have supported our every-day life.

Geography:

In Geography, the children will be learning about Ancient Greece, identifying key sites and cities. They will also learn about the climate, as well as, the geographical features in Ancient Greece. The children will learn about where the Olympics took place and investigate what the Olympics were like when they first started in Ancient Greece in comparison to what they are like now. Later in the term the children will learn about Asia, exploring the mountains, weather, population and rivers.

Art:

The children will be examining, discussing, designing and sculpting Mythological creatures from Ancient Greece using different materials. This will link directly with their Geography and History lessons and give the children a chance to relate learning in these subject areas to their artwork.

PE:

The children will create sequences that include changes of level and speed, and focus on using different body shapes clearly. They work mostly with a partner or in a small group. The children focus on improving the quality of their movement, e.g. by stretching fingers and pointing toes, to help them produce tension and extension. They plan and perform sequences of contrasting actions, and develop flow by linking actions smoothly and planning variations in speed. In gymnastics as a whole, children use skills and agility individually, in combination and in sequence, with the aim of showing as much control and precision as possible. They will also be learning about how to effectively use space, including finding a competitive advantage in games.

PE Days:

Please remember the children should wear the school PE Kit. (Yellow Polo shirt, navy shorts, track suits for outdoor PE, plimsolls for indoor and trainers for outdoor) No earrings or watches should be worn on PE days.

Year 3 will be having PE on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Homework:

Following our change in policy, homework will not be sent home regularly each week. Some children may receive targeted homework, but most children will receive spellings and library books to take home. We

encourage you to work together with them on these. If you are searching for additional tasks, please refer to your child's pupil profile targets for personal focus areas. Times tables are also a focus for the whole school, and practise at home really helps. Please make use of the children's' Sumdog accounts.

Read Aloud:

The Read Aloud 2017 initiative was launched in February 2017, and encourages children and their parents to read aloud for at least 15 minutes each day. Children will record the minutes they read each night on a reading record that will be sent home. Reading plays an integral part of your child's learning so get involved!

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Library day will be on Friday.

Book bags and water bottles must be brought into school every day.

Useful websites to use at home with your children:

www.primaryresources.co.uk

www.stockton.gov.uk

www.bbc.co.uk

Parental Involvement:

There are many ways you can help and support your child's learning at home. This may involve reading stories, listening to their reading or visiting the library. You could also help by encouraging them to discuss what they have been doing both in and out of school.

If you are unable to collect your child from school please inform the class teacher or school office who will be collecting your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Michaela Ansah, Shanna Boake and Natalie Mills.

Year 3 Teachers