



Autumn Term 2017 - Year 3 Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Autumn Term is well under way with all its excitement, beginning with the exciting transformation of our corridor to Ancient Egypt. We're really enjoying getting to know the children in our new classes and look forward to learning lots together this year! As usual, we like to keep you informed about some of the work that the children will be doing in Year 3 this term, which you'll find here.

English

In English we will be focussing on traditional tales, information texts, contemporary fiction, recounts and poetry.

Traditional tales: Children will familiarise themselves with various traditional tales, looking also at alternative perspectives (reading 'The TRUE story of The Three Little Pigs'). We will use books, video clips and drama to immerse the children in the genre. We will consider the sequencing of events, as well as description and characters' feelings, thoughts and motives, focussing particularly on subordinating conjunctions to express these. The children will write their own 'true' story of a traditional tale.

Information texts: Children will be learning about the features of an information text, including its structure and organisation. Work will focus around paragraphing and using headings for presentation. The work will be closely linked with our theme of 'Tomb Raiders'.

Contemporary fiction: In this unit, we will be focussing on the story 'Claude in the City'. We will look closely at descriptive writing features, including adverbial phrases, as well as taking more time to work on extending sentences using different clauses.

Recounts: In this unit, children will learn the features and structure of letters and will have the opportunity to exchange letters with children from the other schools in our Multi Academy Trust.

Poetry: Our focus this term for poetry is list poems. Using the knowledge gained from Theme lessons, children will write list poems based on Ancient Egypt.

Pupils will continue to receive spellings to learn each week and should continue to read at home - nightly if possible, or at the very least three times per week. We are well aware that parents often work long hours and there may be fewer opportunities for the children to read aloud with an adult. However, where possible, reading with your child would be greatly appreciated, even if only a few pages at a time! As the books children read become longer, we don't expect them to read a book every night, but over the course of several days. We will begin to expect children to take increasing responsibility for changing their own reading books in school as they develop independence in Year 3. Your child will have either a banded reading book or a library book this term.

Mathematics

This year we are launching a new and exciting way of teaching Maths across the school. Based on extensive research into the Singapore style of Maths teaching, 'Maths No Problem' incorporates the use of practical resources, problem solving and group work in a fun and engaging way. Look out for more information coming soon on our school website!

We begin by ensuring the children have a secure understanding of place value for numbers up to 1000. Following that, we move onto addition and subtraction considering a number of methods to calculate answers to questions.

Modern Foreign Languages - MFL

During the Autumn term, the children will begin to learn Spanish, beginning with learning a little about Spanish-speaking cultures. They will learn to greet each other in Spanish by asking and answering basic questions.



Religious Education - RE

In RE, children will be considering the question, 'Does joining the Khalsa make a person a better Sikh?', whilst learning about Sikhism. We will then learn about how Christians celebrate at Christmas time, comparing this to the children's experiences.

Physical Education - PE

In PE, children will learn the skills and rules of netball, which will develop both their fine and gross motor skills along with building their confidence when working in a team.



Can we please ask you to support this vital area of the curriculum by helping children to bring the correct changes of clothes to school for these sessions? This term PE lessons will take place on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**, but we recommend their kit is always in school just in case!

Personal, Social and Health Education - PSHE

The units of work the children will be covering in PSHE are 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference'. During these sessions the children will have the opportunity to explore their own feelings and emotions and also those of others through activities.

They will explore the importance of caring for the local environment, continue to build on the importance of being and staying healthy and safe, and their role in the community in which they belong.

Creative Curriculum: 'Tomb Raiders'

Throughout this half term the children will be exploring the exciting times of Ancient Egypt with our Theme of Tomb Raiders. We will discuss and develop our understanding of the lives of Egyptians, learning about where Egypt is in the world and the mysteries of the pyramids and Tutankhamun.



Science: 'The Power of Forces' and 'Can You See Me?'

This half term, we will be looking at forces, including how objects move on different surfaces. We will also be looking at magnetic forces - when they attract and repel, which materials are affected by magnetic force and predicting the effect of magnets in different situations. After half term, we will be focussing on light, including the reflection of light and how shadows are formed.



Homework

You should have received a letter recently outlining the changes to the homework that is provided by school. Children will continue to receive weekly spellings, have a reading book and receive the Power Projects. Additional (optional), homework packs for English and Maths will be available on request.

Many thanks for your continued support. We are excited about a fun and exciting year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Elliott and Miss Every