



Year 3 Curriculum Letter
Spring Term 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Language:

The children will learn most of their formal English in small matched level groups through the Junior English, Literacy and Language or the Read Write Inc. phonics programme. These programmes will encourage them to develop their writing and reading skills and will focus on grammar, spelling, reading and comprehension. We will continue to use our very exciting creative writing programme on Fridays, giving children a chance to show off everything they have learnt during the week. This term's focus will be on explanation texts, non-chronological reports, poetry, narrative texts, discursive writing and newspapers. The writing programme enables us to raise our standards in writing in literacy and therefore offers us the potential to raise standards across the whole curriculum.

Please take the opportunity to talk to your children about their school day and what they have learnt. If English is difficult then the talk should be in the language of the home. It is the talk that is important. Some families have found success using the evening meal as a really good time to sit down together and discuss the homework topic. TV off and all engaged!

Reading:

We encourage the children to read a variety of books that will include home reading, shared reading in the class, library books and guided reading sessions. 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. 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:

The children will be taught in small, matched level numeracy groups to support differentiated learning. We will be continuing with the scheme of work that we have been using. This term the children will be working on addition and subtraction including the column method and using the inverse, maths problems involving measurement of mass, missing number problems, integers, scaling, bar graphs, worded problems, fractions, angles, volume, money and more.

Science:

This term in Science the children will be focusing on Cycles in nature with a particular focus on plants. They

will investigate how water is transported within a plant, and explore the cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

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 the key events in the life of Jesus, learning about the life he lived and the stories he told. The children will also learn about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness and how Christians celebrate Lent and Easter.

Music:

The children will continue to learn to play the recorder! Music sessions will enable the children to become more adept with the basic elements of music (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre, etc.). They will be learning the correct technique and building on their learning from last time to expand their musical palette. If your child has a recorder at home please encourage them to practise and remember to send it with them into school to use in music lessons.

History:

In History, the children will learn about Henry II, the first of the Plantagenet kings, his legal and judicial reforms, his conflict with the church over Thomas á Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury and his subsequent murder at Canterbury Cathedral. The children will also learn about the Crusades, the religious conflicts in the Holy Land and become familiar with Richard the Lion heart and the role he played in the Third Crusade. They will then learn about King John, the Magna Carta and the development of parliament.

Geography:

The children will be learning about rivers and basins, including the water cycle. Children will look at how water moves around and consider how water gets from the sea to the sky and back again. Children will also look at rivers and basins that are local to our school and famous rivers around the world. They will also look at the Geography of the local area, examine land uses and develop map reading skills.

Art:

In Art the children will be learning about the art of Japan. Each week they will have the opportunity to replicate Japanese art using various techniques and materials. Activities will include drawing in a Manga style, working with ink and brush skills, sculpting and 3D construction. They will then learn about landscapes and examine the style and techniques of artists such as Constable and Lowry.

PE:

In PE the children will continue with separate indoor and outdoor lessons. Indoor PE will further explore gymnastics, focusing on stretching, curling and making shapes with the body. The children will have the chance to build on body skills learnt during last terms' dance lessons and interact with the PE apparatus (benches, etc). Outdoor PE will focus on ball skills in invasion games (such as football and basketball); the children will work on finding space and positioning to score.

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.

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!

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, Natalie Mills & Cherie Nuamah.

Year 3 Teachers