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Wednesday 9th January, 2019

Year 3 - Class Newsletter - Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas break and a Happy New Year to you all!

Some dates for your diaries:

Year 3 Parents' Information- Wednesday 16th January in the staff room from 9am.

Parent Consultation Meeting - Tuesday 5th February (5.30-8.00) and Wednesday 6th February (3.00-5.30). This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's work.

Science Week - Week Commencing Monday 11th February. On Tuesday 12th February Year 3 + 4 will be partaking in a beach clean on Chesil Beach. More information on this will be coming home in a letter very soon.

HALF TERM BREAK - Week Commencing Monday 18th February

Book week- Week commencing 4th March. Dress up for World Book day on Thursday 7th March.

Our **Year 3 Class Assembly** is on Friday 22nd March at 9.20 am in the school hall.

EASTER BREAK – Two weeks commencing Monday 8th April.

Year Three Curriculum – Spring Term

Reading

The development of reading remains a very high priority in what we do in Year 3. We continue to adopt various organisational approaches:

Whole Class Texts – We will be working on selected texts as a whole class. The children will be reading these during their Read Write Inc or Spellings group time which is an hour each day.



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AR reading books- Every half term the children complete a Star reading test which determines which level of book they are to read. All the children have a number which corresponds to a box of books in the library that they can take out. Once they have read the book, the children do a quiz. They should ideally do the quiz within 24 hours of finishing the book. It has been fantastic to see the children's enthusiasm for reading increase and they look forward to AR reading time, which we try to do on a daily basis. Please can you make sure that if your child is reading these books at home, they put them back into their book bags ready for school the next day.

Library Books- The children can choose a fiction and non-fiction book from the Library. They will have an opportunity to change or renew this during the week. This is a free choice to reflect their personal interests. The children can check books in and out using the electronic library system.

Literacy

In this first half term, we will be linking our Literacy learning to our topic of 'Explorers'. We will work our way through time from the Viking Sagas about the discovery of America (Vinland), on to Ernest Shackleton's expeditions to Antarctica, and then finish with some work based on Steve Backshall of 'Deadly 60' and 'Lost Land' fame. Written tasks will cover a range of genres, such as storytelling, writing reports and diary extracts, and making information texts. The children will be focusing on developing the depth and quality of their writing. We will working on using a greater range of conjunctions and adverbial phrases to write more complex sentences, and learning to organise written text into paragraphs. There will also be a continued focus on accurate spelling and use of punctuation, along with clear and accurately formed handwriting.

In the second half of the term, we will move on to exploring Native American stories, myths and legends, and create some new ones of our own. This should also provide an opportunity for some exciting drama, art and music sessions to link in with the children's writing.

Handwriting

We are having a very specific focus on the development of neat handwriting and the effective presentation of written work. We will be employing a range of strategies for this. Some children will have an opportunity for additional support within an "intervention group".

Mathematics

We will be focussing on multiplications in particular the 4 and 8 times tables. We are trialling a new piece of software called 'Times Table Rockstars'. On this the children have to answer multiplication and division questions against the clock. The faster they can answer the questions the more gold coins they will receive and they turn in to different types of rockstars. We have been having a go and this this week and the children enjoyed the level of challenge!

As well as multiplication we will also focus on division and then move on to measure. Please do still encourage your child to access Mathletics at home. We set new challenges depending on what we are learning and will print off the certificates on a weekly basis.

Science

At the end of the the first half term we will be having a Science week where our focus will be on plastic and recycling. Prior to this, we will be looking at the 'working scientifically', which is an important area of the Science curriculum. This will involve us asking questions, hypothesizing and experimenting using magnets.



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Forest School

Forest School will start back next week on a Monday afternoon again. Please remember to bring warm clothes back in for this. This half term we will have a history focus where the children will learn all about the stone age. They will make jewellery, cook on the fire, make historical pictures and lots more!

Swimming – This continues on every Thursday afternoon. Please could you continue to write your child's name on the board just inside the classroom if you are intending to collect them from the swimming pool at 3.15pm.

Home Learning and Spellings

Every Friday the children will bring home a piece of home learning. This may be Literacy or Maths based. This will come home in their green home learning folders. These can be placed in the black tray once completed.

Spellings should be written in the childrens log books, but also a lot of the teachers now send home word lists. Please so practice these on a daily basis as it has a great effect on the children's writing.

Snacks

We are keen that the children have a healthy snack at Break Time. We would like to positively encourage healthy snacks, so no sweets, chocolate or crisps please.

Water

The children have many water breaks and have access to their water in the classroom. They are very good at refilling their bottles once they have finished. Everyone that finishes their water during the day will be allowed a house point.

Communication between School and Parents

Please feel that you can approach any of the Year 3 Team to discuss any issues, worries, concerns that you may have when you drop off and pick up your child. If you would like to arrange a more detailed or confidential chat with myself (Mrs Thorpe) or Mrs Bishop, then we would be very happy to make an appointment to do so. It is always better to deal with any concerns as quickly as possible rather than wait until the Parents Consultation Evenings. Mrs Bishop and I meet on a regular basis and share discussions we have with parents.

Do use email to contact us if this is more convenient.

School email address' are b.thorpe@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk
j.bishop@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk

Blogs

These will be brief details of what we have been up to in class, and comments about what things will be coming up soon. To view these go to the "Year 3 "section of the "Parents' Page" on the website. Please feel free to comment of these blogs on the webpage.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Becci Thorpe and Mrs Julia Bishop - Year 3 Class Teachers



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