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Wednesday 5th September, 2018

Year 3 - Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 1 2018

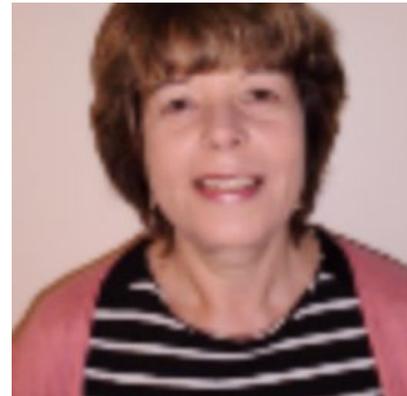
Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted by the excellent start the children have made to the new term. They have settled in very nicely and are showing lots of enthusiasm and interest in the curriculum.

The Year 3 team are:



Mrs Thorpe - Class Teacher (Monday-Wednesday)



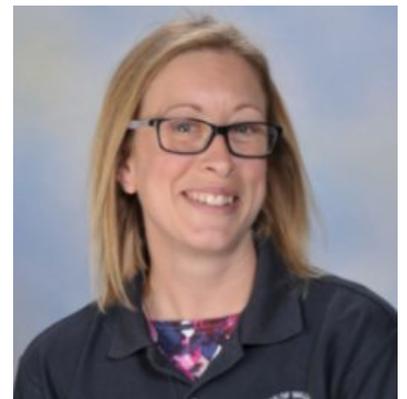
Mrs Bishop - Class Teacher (Thursday-Friday)



Mrs Cornell - Teaching Assistant



Mrs Scott - Teaching Assistant



Mrs Rogers - Teaching Assistant

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The best time to catch us is just before or after school.

Y3 Parents Information Session – 9.00 a.m. Wednesday 12th September:

This is an opportunity for you to find out more about the curriculum in Year 3 and the ways in which teaching and learning are organised.

Literacy Approach - Phonics, SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Reading -

This September, we have made some changes across the school to support greater progress for all children in Literacy. These changes come with a particular focus on children's development of Phonic, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Reading skills.

Our changes build on the success of the 'Ruth Miskin: Read, Write Inc. Phonics Programme' which we started using in Reception and Year 1 last year and now include the introduction of 'Ruth Miskin: Read Write Inc. Spelling Programme' and the use of 'AR (Accelerated Reader)' for children in Year 1 to Year 4.

An overview of each programme is included below -

Read Write Inc. Phonics teaches children to read accurately and fluently with good comprehension. They learn to form each letter, spell correctly, and compose their ideas step-by-step.

Reading - Children learn the English alphabetic code: first they learn one way to read the 40+ sounds and blend these sounds into words, then learn to read the same sounds with alternative graphemes.

They experience success from the very beginning. Lively phonic books are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words and, as children re-read the stories, their fluency increases.

Along with a thought-provoking introduction, prompts for thinking out loud and discussion, children are helped to read with a storyteller's voice.

Writing -

The children write every day, rehearsing out loud what they want to say, before spelling the words using the graphemes and 'tricky' words they know.

They practise handwriting every day: sitting at a table comfortably, they learn correct letter formation and how to join letters speedily and legibly.

Children's composition (ideas, vocabulary and grammar) is developed by drawing on their own experiences and talking about the stories they read.

All staff who teach **Read Write Inc. Phonics** have received two days of official Ruth Miskin Ltd Training and benefit from ongoing official training opportunities that take place at The Prince of Wales School. Ongoing support is provided by **Read Write Inc. Phonics** expert Kirsten McKenzie.

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Children accessing the **Read Write Inc. Phonics** programme will not bring home weekly spellings, instead they will be encouraged to practise the sounding-out and blending of sounds. Which sounds need to be practised (green cards) and which sounds need to be learnt (red cards) will be made clear by your child's teacher.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/programmes/phonics/>

Read Write Inc. Spelling is for children who can read accurately, with increasing speed. With 15 minutes of daily teaching, children develop confident spelling.

Although the teaching of phoneme-grapheme correspondence underpins this programme, it also develops children's knowledge of word families, how suffixes impact upon root words, and provides mnemonics to remember the trickiest spellings.

The teaching revolves around instruction (with the help of online alien characters), partner and group practice, and competitive group challenges that help children commit new words to memory.

All staff who teach **Read Write Inc. Spelling** have received one full day of official Ruth Miskin Ltd Training and benefit from ongoing official training opportunities that take place at The Prince of Wales School. Ongoing support is provided by **Read Write Inc. Spelling** expert Kirsten McKenzie.

Children accessing the **Read Write Inc. Spelling** programme will not bring home weekly spellings, instead they will bring home a log book daily. The log book will include spellings the children need to practice at home on a daily basis. The approach required will be made clear by your child's teacher.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/programmes/spelling/>

For both **Read Write Inc. Phonics** and **Read Write Inc. Spelling** all children are assessed regularly by our RWI Lead (Mrs. Smith) so they work with children at the same level. This allows complete participation in lessons.

AR (Accelerated Reader) is a reading programme that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://www.renaissance.com/services/parent-resources/>

More information about AR (Accelerated Reader) will be sent home in due course. Teaching Staff will be receiving specialist AR (Accelerated Reader) training on Monday 24th September 2018.

Library:

As Accelerated Reader is integrated within the school your children will bring home a book linked to this and they can take out a non-fiction book. You can access the library before and after school.

Ideally, it would be great for children to be able to read with you or to you on a daily basis.

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Class Blog:

The class blog is the best place to keep up with all the latest news, events and activities in Year Three. You can access this blog through our school website at: <http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>, via our Facebook and Twitter (see the links on the school website) or via our school's iPhone App which is available to download in the App Store. We hope that you find this method of communication useful and encourage you to comment using the inbuilt tools. Other staff working with the Year Three Class may also make a comment relating to the children's work.

Using Online Tools for Home Learning:

We would like to encourage all pupils to access the online tools available through the school website. This will support home learning. We have provided login details and passwords for **"Reading Eggspress"**, **"Mathletics"** and **"Purple Mash"**. These will be sent home with your child within the first couple of weeks. The children can also access different selected Websites (which relate specifically to work we are covering at school) by following the "Pupil Links" on the opening page of the School Website.

Other Home Learning:

We will be encouraging the children to do small pieces of written work and mathematical activities as "home learning" each week. They will be given a week (from Thursday to Thursday) for these tasks. These will be explained on paper-copy in the children's "home learning folders" and also detailed in Blogs on the Y3 Blog page. This will happen every week.

Snacks:

We are keen that the children have a healthy snack at Break Time. We are able to provide the children with some fruit, but you may like to supplement this for your child. We would like to positively encourage healthy snacks. Your child should put his/her snack in the "Snack Tray" when they arrive at school.

Water:

We are keen that the children should have access to water in the classroom as there is much evidence to support the idea that this helps them to learn. Please give your child a named water container. This can stay at school and they can top it up in the Servery when necessary. This is separate to the drink that you provide for their lunch.

Harvest Assembly:

At **10.00 am on Friday 5th September** we will be having an Assembly with the children in Year 3 and 4 to celebrate Harvest Festival.

Year 3 Class Assembly:

Our Class Assembly this term is at 9.20 am on Friday 2th November.

Year Three Class Charter:

During the first week back we will be working together to create our class charter. Once this has been finalised all children will have a copy of this. We will also be voting for two new members to join the Children's Voice.

Communication between School and Parents (Year 3):

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 either of us, then we would be very happy to make an appointment to do so. From our experience it is always better to deal with any concerns as quickly as possible rather than wait until the Parents Consultation Evenings.

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

Our email address is - b.thorpe@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk or j.bishop@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk

The next Parents' Consultation Interviews are on Tuesday 16th October (5-7.30) and Wednesday 17th October (3.30-5.30).

Forest School:

Forest School will be on a Monday afternoon and will run for five weeks each term. The whole class will be partaking in this on a weekly basis. This term our first session will be on Monday 10th. All children will need long sleeve top, trousers, jumper, waterproof coat and wellingtons. They will need long sleeves and trousers no matter what the weather as this is a protective layer. Please also provide hats and gloves in the cold weather. Please be aware that the clothing that you provide may get dirty. If they have not got the appropriate footwear and clothing then it will be unsafe for them to partake and so will stay inside with another class.

This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's work.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Thorpe and Mrs Bishop
Year 3 Class Teachers