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Wednesday 11th September, 2019

Year 3 - Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 1 2019

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. B. Thorpe
Year Three Class Teacher
(Monday - Wednesday)



Ms. C. Browne
Year Three Class Teacher
(Thursday - Friday)



Mrs. D. Bernard
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Monday - Friday)



Mrs. K. Hall
Senior Teaching Assistant
(Thursday-Friday)



Mrs. E. Hibberd
Senior 1:1 Teaching Assistant - Medical
(Monday - Friday)



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Some dates for your diary:

Fri 20th Sep - Non school uniform day

Mon 30th Sep - Fri 11th Oct - Farming Fortnight

Thur 10th Oct - Wacky hair day

Fri 11th Oct - Harvest Assemblies. K.S.2 at 10am

Fri 11th Oct - Evening Autumn Fest (POWSA)

Tues 22nd Oct - Parents' Consultations (later evening session)

Wed 23rd Oct - Parents' Consultations (earlier evening session)

Fri 25th Oct - [Year 3 class assembly](#)

Mon 28th Oct - Half Term (INSET day on Monday 4th Nov)

Year Three Class Charter:

We have been 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.

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.

Literacy:

This year we will be having our daily sessions on writing in the morning where we will cover a lot of our topic based learning. After the assembly the children will go into their set Read Write Inc Spelling groups where they will learn new spelling rules. This session will also be dedicated to whole class reading. Please make sure your child has their AR books in school everyday.

Library:

Your child should have 3 books in their book bags. An AR book, which the level will be decided by us (class teachers), a fiction and non-fiction. Once your child has finished their AR book please so encourage them to take the quiz online (accessed through our school links pages) within 24hr of finishing the text. They can then change the book

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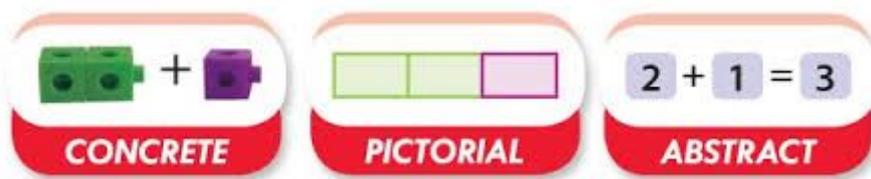
the following day. The children receive points for completed quizzes. We are looking for the children to get at least 85% in the quizzes. They can have the book with them when doing the quiz.

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

Mathematics Scheme - Power Maths:

We recognise that pupils need to develop their conceptual understanding. In other words, pupils don't only need to be able to recall facts quickly, they also need to be able to apply their knowledge in a range of different contexts, including those that are new and unfamiliar. This is the idea at the heart of 'Maths Mastery', an approach to Maths based upon best practice found in Singapore.

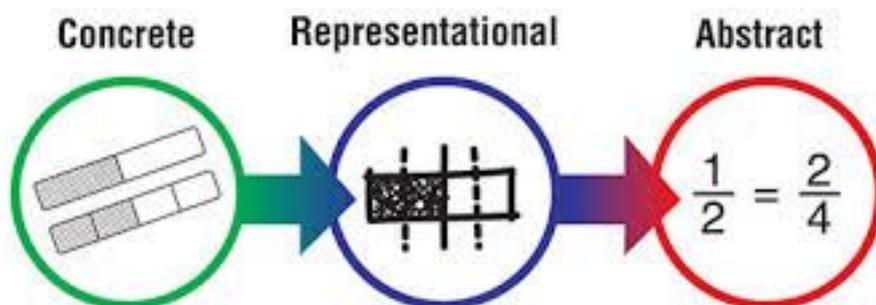
In order to develop conceptual understanding in our pupils, this year we are implementing the CPA approach to learning (concrete, pictorial and abstract). This approach recognises that in order for pupils to understand abstract concepts, they must first learn mathematical concepts through the use of concrete resources and pictorial representation.



Concrete is the 'doing' stage, using concrete objects to solve problems. It brings concepts to life by allowing children to handle physical objects themselves.

Pictorial is the 'seeing' stage, using representations of the objects involved in maths problems. This stage encourages children to make a mental connection between the physical object and abstract levels of understanding, by drawing or looking at pictures, circles, diagrams or models which represent the objects in the problem.

Abstract is the 'symbolic' stage, where children are able to use abstract symbols to model and solve maths problems.



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We have purchased a new scheme of learning called 'Power Maths' in order to help us embed this approach. This scheme is based upon extensive research into maths teaching around the world, particularly Singapore. We have also purchased new physical resources to use within our lessons.

Using Online Tools for Home Learning:

We would like to encourage all pupils to access the online tools available through the school website to support home learning. We have provided login details and passwords for **Mathletics, TTRockstars 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 "home learning" activities as each week. They will be given a week (from Thursday to Tuesday) for these tasks. These will be explained on paper-copy and also detailed in Blogs on the Y3 Blog page. This will happen every week.

Snacks and Water:

There is much evidence to support the idea that access to water helps children learn. Please provide your child with a named water container that can be topped up when necessary. We are keen that children have a healthy snack. 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 their snack in the "Snack Tray" when they arrive at school.

Forest School:

Forest School will be on a Monday afternoon and will run for three weeks during the first part of the Autumn term and then 3 weeks after. The class will be split for this. Half will be working with Mrs Thorpe outside whilst the other half are inside with Mrs Bernard focussing on Art. This term our first session will be on Monday 23rd September. 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.

The next Parents' Consultations are on Tuesday 22nd October (5-7.30) and Wednesday 23rd October (3.30-5.30). This will be an opportunity to discuss your child's work.

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.

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

Our email address is - b.thorpe@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk or c.browne@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk

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Yours faithfully,

Mrs Thorpe and Ms Browne
Year 3 Class Teachers