

Year 3

September – October 2015

The golden learning habits of a successful Year 3 child at St Paul's School are:

- Curiosity
- Independence
- Communication
- Resilience
- Perseverance
- Being a social navigator



ENGLISH

In English this term we will be focussing on traditional tales, in particular, the story of Cinderella. We will be exploring alternative versions of the Cinderella story from different countries, such as China, Egypt and the Caribbean. Children will develop their creative writing skills by planning and writing their own versions of the story.

Reading

In order to develop better fluency, expression and understanding of the text it is important for children to read regularly. Children will frequently read with an adult in school and during guided reading sessions children will discuss a text as a group and answer questions about it; this will develop their comprehension skills. Children will also be given many opportunities to read independently and choose books from the class bookcase to read for their own enjoyment.

Writing

BASIC SKILLS are at the heart of absolutely EVERY piece of writing, whatever the subject. The correct spelling of common words, accurate use of capital letters and full stops are all automatically expected throughout Key Stage 2.

In Year 3 the children will be starting to think about adding more variety to sentence structures and including more detail with the use of time openers, adjectives and adverbs.

Longer pieces of writing are planned, drafted and revised so that the children have the opportunity to make improvements to their work.

Children will practice their handwriting regularly in order to ensure that their writing is neat and correctly joined up.

Spellings will be given weekly and will be tested on a Friday. There will be opportunity at school for children to practice their spellings but they are also expected to practice at home.

MATHS

To begin the year the focus of maths lessons will be on the place value of digits; this will help children to develop a secure understanding of what each digit is “worth”. This understanding will be vital as we then begin to develop mental and written methods for solving calculations (multiplications, division, addition and subtraction).

Just as basic skills in spelling, grammar and punctuation are reinforced daily, we also have daily ‘CLIC training’ to sharpen up those number facts and mental calculation skills. CLIC simply stands for Counting; ‘Learn its’ (the number facts the children should just know off by heart, such as tables 2,3,4,5,8,10); It’s nothing new’ (applying the ‘learn its’ to solve problems); and Calculation (practising both mental and written methods of adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing).

As well as developing number skills, children will also be given opportunities this term to interpret data from tables and graphs.

SCIENCE: Forces Our first Science topic of the year is forces. This topic will provide many opportunities for children to be involved in practical activities and investigations as we explore push and pull forces, friction, gravity, air resistance and water resistance. Children will be expected to work collaboratively to plan and carry out their own investigations which will explore their own theories and ideas.

RE/PSHE: Who is my neighbour? – This topic will reflect on the responsibility people feel to care for others. Children will learn about how the beliefs, values and teachings of different faiths demonstrate our need to care for others.

GEOGRAPHY: Brazil - An introduction to the country our classroom is named after. We will spend a full day learning about the geographical features of Brazil, as well as learning about music, art and food from Brazil.

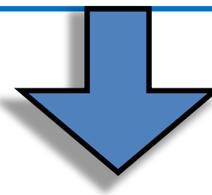
HISTORY: Our topic this term is Ancient Egypt and we will be learning about many aspects of Ancient Egyptian life.

COMPUTING – We will discuss the issues of internet safety. Children will also develop their ability to use the Microsoft programme Word.

ART – 2D and 3D work inspired by Ancient Egypt using a range of media and techniques.

MUSIC – In Year 3 the children will begin to learn how to play the recorder.

PE – Dance and football.



WAYS THAT PARENTS CAN SUPPORT AT HOME

- To ensure that your child is ready to learn and is at their very best each and every day please encourage plenty of early nights!
- Homework will be given out every Friday (due on the following Wednesday). The homework will be relevant to the things we have been learning about in class during the week and will provide an opportunity for children to use the skills and knowledge that they have learned.
- There will be a spelling test every Friday and new spelling lists will be handed out after this. Children are expected to prepare for this test by practicing their spellings at home and during opportunities given in school time. It would be helpful to read the spellings aloud for your child so that they can practice writing them.
- In order to improve fluency and expression it is helpful for children to read aloud to an adult regularly. When you read with your child at home, please also encourage them to answer questions about the text that they have read and make predictions about the story. In Year 3, children are allowed to write in their own reading records if they have read their reading books independently at home. When children read at home they collect a star on the reading chart and at the end of term the children who have read the most often will be given a prize.