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Headteacher: Mr R Tollyfield



Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! The children are now entering their first year of Key Stage 2 and we will all be working together to make the year as successful as possible in what we hope will be a more 'normal' situation with regard to COVID.

We are extremely lucky to have a talented and enthusiastic teaching assistant team. Mrs Harris and Mrs Scott will be working equally in both classes. Mrs Harris also works as a TA3 and will cover classes on occasions. Mrs Deering-Foster teaches 3H on a Wednesday and Mrs Parle teaches 3G on a Friday. In addition 3H will have a student teacher (Miss Mawer) who will work alongside Miss Holt. Please pass on any messages via class dojo but remember that messages about who will pick up must go via the office as dojo is not checked regularly through the day so is for non-urgent messages.

Learning Journey

We are embarking on a history and geography based learning journey which takes us back to Ancient Greece and looks at what the legacy is from the Greeks, how our lives are different now due to the Ancient Greeks, in areas such as culture, language, sport, art and architecture. This learning journey will last until Christmas. It will also involve curriculum areas such as Art and Design Technology. Please look out for any opportunities to explore this subject.

We would usually ask the children to embark on project homework related to this subject which they would bring in for a 'Showing Afternoon'. This might be making a model, creating a piece of art, writing a story, creating a PowerPoint or anything else which really interests them on an aspect of the legacy of the Ancient Greeks. Obviously the situation is a little different this year with Covid 19 and we are unsure at this stage if any such events can happen like this in December. If your child does have a particular interest in an aspect of Ancient Greeks and would like to produce some work at home, we would be delighted to see pictures or videos via dojo.

English

Our English will be delivered through our learning journey topic, so the children will be exploring a range of different text types and will be writing in many different ways. We will be looking at a variety of Greek myths and legends including Theseus and the Minotaur and Pandora's Box. They will then have the opportunity to write their own Greek Myth.

With an increasing emphasis on grammar in line with national initiatives, we will be teaching sessions to reinforce key grammar and punctuation concepts and skills. We



recommend using www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/spelling_grammar/ to reinforce the learning at home. We will be working on their handwriting skills to ensure correct letter formation and thus aiding the fluency of their writing. We will also be working on basic sentence construction and punctuation and broadening the vocabulary that they use, to get them excited about language.

Reading

All the children in Year 3 will take part in the Accelerated Reader' (AR) reading programme, where the children's reading comprehension is monitored and the correct level of challenging books are tailored to their needs. (We know that a few children used this scheme in Year 2). Children choose their own books from the library and once the book is finished the children take an online quiz to monitor understanding. More details of this will follow shortly where you will receive a letter indicating your child's book level. Please support your child by sharing books with them and encouraging them to read. This year we really want our year 3 children to read complete books of a wide range of genres. As well as benefitting their reading, this will have a significant impact on their writing. There is a limit to how many books a child is allowed to borrow from the library so please keep an eye on those they may be hoarding at home as it leaves them frustrated when they are not allowed to borrow anymore; only one school book should be at home at a time.

If your child is on the Lexia reading programme, please encourage them to log on at least three times a week to complete their activities. All this work should be done independently, so please do not help your child with Lexia. Lexia certificates are given to the children in assembly.

Spelling

In 3G the "Big Spelling Test" is being completed over the course of this week which will place the children on the correct spelling booklet. In 3H this has already been done. The booklet will make it clear which set your child has moved on to. Please work on these words with your child and use some of the ideas from The Spelling Toolkit (this is on the website if you have lost your copy!). They need to learn two sets unless otherwise indicated in their booklet. They will be tested every two weeks and their spelling booklet needs to be in their bag everyday as the day they are tested will vary. In addition they need to start learning the Year 3 and 4 spelling list which is available on the school website. It would be ideal if your child could start learning a few of these every week in addition to those in their booklets.

Maths

A lot of our work this term will focus on understanding basic number skills, using mental calculation strategies and procedures, place value and times tables. The use of resources such as Numicon to develop mathematical discussions, reasoning and secure understanding of the concepts will continue.

Please support your child with regular practise of their times tables as this is crucial to all our work. All children should start year 3 already secure on their 2's, 5's and 10's. If you feel your

child is not, please do activities daily such as 'Hit the Button' (a completely free resource – just Google it!). By the end of Year 3 we expect all children to know their 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 times tables. Until children know their times tables off by heart, they are slowed down in many other areas of maths. Perhaps you could look for opportunities to chant them on the way to school or as the children climb the stairs at home! My Maths is an excellent opportunity to track your child's progress at home, and includes many excellent activities and games to support all areas of maths. A letter will come home with log in details for My Maths. Please check My Maths weekly; some weeks there will be no tasks, and other weeks there may be two or three. The reason for this variation is that we use it to consolidate areas of learning and only choose the activities that we feel are an excellent match for the in-class learning.

We are also tracking their progress on a number bonds speed recall with numbers up to 10 on one side and number bonds to 20 on the second side. We see lots of children when presented with $7+3$ using their fingers to work this out whereas we wish to encourage automatic recall. Again, 'hit the button' has a great number bonds section which the children can progress through (they can progress to the next level when they can correctly answer 20+ questions in the time). Have a look, it is really good.

P.E.

Please ensure that your child comes dressed in their P.E. kit on P.E. day. This is Wednesday for 3H and Friday for 3G. P.E. kit should be plain red shorts and a white t-shirt with plimsolls or trainers. In cold weather, plain black jogging bottoms may be worn along with a school jumper. Please ensure that those with long hair (both boys and girls) have something to tie it back with.

Home Learning Opportunities

The emphasis for homework in Year 3 is regular testing and practise of spellings, times tables and sharing an AR book with your child (talking about the plot, vocabulary, making predictions, comparing it to other books they have read, discussing how characters feel etc). Various maths opportunities have been outlined above.

Water

It is very important that children drink enough water in order to concentrate and work efficiently. Please ensure that your child has a labelled water bottle in school. Can we remind you that this must be water and not juice in line with county policy.

If you have any queries or concerns about any of the above or your children settling in this term, please message us on class dojo. We look forward to working in partnership with you during the year.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Guest Miss Holt Mrs Parle Mrs Deering Foster