

# Year 3 Autumn Term

September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! For those parents/guardians who I have not had the opportunity to meet, I would like to introduce myself as your child's year 3 teacher and Mrs Rai as our learning support practitioner. You will remember Mrs Sharif from year 2, she will be joining us too. I hope you had a lovely summer holiday and you are ready to begin working hard in year 3. We have some exciting learning coming up during the next year and below is the key curriculum information for this term.

## **English**

We will be exploring a range of fiction and non-fiction texts during the autumn term which will link to our history topic. Throughout the term, children will have the opportunity to complete an extended piece of writing to practise the process of planning, drafting and making improvements to their own work as well as their peers. Writing will also be developed through the curriculum. Our texts for this term in English will be The Stone Age Boy, and The Egg.

Guided reading will continue to take place each week and home reading books will be allocated to each pupil. Children will be working on a class text during guided reading sessions as well as isolated extracts. Our class text for this term are The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Please remember to record any reading in your child's reading record where possible. We will be having a class visit to the theatre to watch The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe on stage this November so please look out for the letters to follow.

GPS (Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling) will be also be taught throughout English lessons. There is a huge emphasis on spelling in the year 6 SATs and we want to prepare the children well in advance therefore it is crucial that children are learning their spellings at home each week. Phonics intervention lessons will also take place daily for those children who need it to be able to close any gaps in their knowledge.

Handwriting will be practised throughout the week in school with the focus letter joins changing regularly. Your child will have the opportunity to earn a handwriting pen which will be given out by Mrs Crozier and Mrs Higham-Jones. When I feel your child is ready for a pen they will have to prove to Mrs Crozier and Mrs Higham-Jones that their handwriting is consistently neat with the correct joins across all subjects. Handwriting pens can also be taken away from children if their handwriting becomes inconsistent.

## **Maths**

The topics that will be covered in maths during the autumn term are:

- ✓ Place value
- ✓ Addition and Subtraction
- ✓ Multiplication and division

Throughout lessons, children will explore reasoning and problem solving to help them to develop a deeper understanding of maths within each unit. Each week children will have a times tables test which takes place on a Tuesday. Times tables are a big focus in Year 3 to prepare children for the test they will need to take towards the end of year 4.

Each child has been given a Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) login which they can use at home. They will also be able to practise their maths recall through their Numbots account which was introduced to them last year. Year 3 have a weekly tournament set up on TTRS to compete with year 4 for who scores the most point when they play. A trophy will go to the class with the highest points. Please make use of this facility as it is available on a range of devices including laptops, desktop computers, ipads, android tablets, mobile phones etc. It is FREE for you to use with the log in we have provided you with.

## **History**

Our autumn term topic will be the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. The children will begin by exploring what prehistory is and to be able to understand what BC and AD are. They will also be ordering events in chronological order. The children will also be exploring Stonehenge and the mysteries surrounding it. To finish the topic, children will explore what lives are like during each period, making comparisons between each period.

## **Art**

During the first half term, the children will be exploring charcoal and drawing. The children will look at artists such as Laura McKendry and Degas, and have the opportunity to produce a piece of work using charcoal in response to music. Sketch book skills will be practised in addition to the art lesson during one registration period each week.

## **Design and Technology**

After half term, children will be developing their sewing skills. They will be building on the sewing techniques that they learnt last year as well as learning new stitches such as cross stitch. Later in the topic, they will be creating a product for a client that incorporates everything they have learnt across the topic.

## **Science**

During this term, children will be learning about properties of rocks, including how they and fossils are formed before moving onto exploring animals and humans, including how bones and muscles work. These lessons will be extending on the children's knowledge of concepts that they learnt about during their previous years within the school. They will begin to write scientific reports about what they have learnt with the experiments we do in class. This will be good practise for further report writing that will be completed in later years.

## **French**

Children will learn to pronounce, write and read French vocabulary. They will begin by looking at basic French words and phrases based around colour, number and family members. Children will engage with language through catchy songs and illustrated stories.

## **PE**

PE will be led by Mr Upal and will take place on Monday afternoons. Once again this year, children need to continue to come to school in tracksuits as they will not be getting changed in school. It would be appreciated if you could ensure that your child arrives to school on these days in tracksuits as PE is a compulsory part of the curriculum. Ear-rings MUST be removed or covered with plasters provided from home. All other jewellery or watches must be removed or covered appropriately and safely. Please check with us if you are not sure.

Swimming will be taught on Wednesday afternoons of this term and will take place at Sandwell Aquatics Centre. We will walk to and back from the centre together. Swimming is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum and all children are required to take part. Long hair needs to be tied back, earrings must be removed or covered by a swimming hat.

## **Music**

Children will be learning how to play the trumpet as a class with tuition from Miss Churchill. Trumpets are provided by the school and a letter about the children taking them home to practise is to follow in December with more information about their learning. We hope to perform a few pieces for all parents by the end of the year. We will also be setting aside some time in the school day to practise for the Young Voices Concert in January 2024 (further details to follow soon).

## **RE**

This term the children will be exploring Hinduism and answering the question 'would celebrating Diwali at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child?'. They will be exploring the story of Rama and Sita as well as looking at how and why Hindus celebrate Diwali. After half term, the children will be exploring the question 'has Christmas lost its true meaning?'. The children will be looking at how Christmas is celebrated in the UK and how consumerism may have lost the true reason that Christmas is celebrated by Christians.

## **PSHE**

To begin the new term the focus in PSHE will be based on the theme of 'Being me in my world'. This will support children in settling back into school after the summer as well as supporting children to adapt to year 3. We will then move onto learning out celebrating differences after half term.

## **Computing**

This term the children will be learning to touch type and word-process documents using Word/Google documents followed by data handling in the second part of the term.

## **Homework**

Homework will be handed out each Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday.

### Spellings

Children will be given a spelling test every Friday. They will be told which spelling to practise and will also have one 10-minute session within class time to practise them.

### Mental Arithmetic

Each week there will be a focus in class for mental arithmetic and a test will be held every Friday. The expected pass rate is 8 out of 10. Please practise the area identified on the homework sheet.

### Times Tables

It is also important that the children practise their times tables as this is now assessed in a mandatory test towards the end of Year 4. They can do this using Times Table Rock Stars. Each child has a login in their reading diary and provides them with a fun and engaging way to practise their Times Tables as well as adapt to focus on the tables each child isn't as confident with.

### Reading

Please read a little every night and record it in the reading record. This can be the home reading book, comics, environmental print/packaging, non-fiction books, fiction books, etc. Literally any reading is good reading!

Please can you also ensure that your child brings a refillable drink bottle to school with them every day.

If you have any questions or concerns about year 3 please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support.

Mrs Whitehurst, Mrs Rai and Mrs Sharif