

Year 3 Spring Term Newsletter January 2021



Reminders:

- Please ensure you have a named water bottle in school.
- Remember to bring your yellow reading diary and reading book every day.
- PE days are **Wednesday** and **Friday**. You may wear your PE kit to school on these days.
- Children may bring a pencil case to school if they wish, but equipment is provided if not.

Here is what we'll be getting up to this term!

English

This term we will be looking at a range of text types, starting with the traditional tale 'The Firebird'. We will also be looking at the texts 'When the Giant Stirred' and the Icelandic folk tale 'The Stone Trolls'. We will have a number of grammatical focuses, starting with using conditional conjunctions. We will then be revisiting our previous learning on using expanded noun phrases and powerful verbs, applying this to develop the children's use of imagery in their writing.

Reading

Please try to read with your child five times a week as a minimum as home learning and record this in their yellow reading diary. Every child takes home two books – one which is at their colour-banded level (95% decodable) to help them develop their fluency and comprehension, as well as a 'reading for pleasure' book (from the class library/school library) which may be trickier for them to read. Please share this book with your child to help them develop their love of reading and expand their vocabulary. In class, we will be focusing on developing expression, practicing retrieving information and developing inference skills.

Maths

We will continue to adopt a 'teaching for mastery' approach to our mathematics learning this term. We will be looking at using the column method algorithm to solve addition and subtraction problems. We will then move onto multiplication and division, first deepening our knowledge of lots of/groups of and scaling as structures of multiplication. The children will then go onto learning the formal multiplication column method and will look at division as a method of grouping and sharing.

Times Tables

We are placing a *great emphasis* on the children learning their key times tables facts fluently. These are: x2, x3, x4, x5, x8 and x10 tables for Year 3. The children are expected to meet a 20-minute target each week as home learning on Times Tables Rockstars.

Topic

Our new topic is 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes'. This term, the children will develop their understanding of how volcanoes are formed and where they occur and why. In Geography, they will be using the computer software 'Digimaps' to develop their map reading skills and locate volcanoes and tectonic plates around the world. In Art, linked with our Science and Geography learning, the children will be developing their drawing skills, collage skills and sculpture with a focus on fossils and volcanoes.

Science

This half term we will be looking at rocks and soils. The children will be comparing and grouping together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. They will learn to describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock. They will also learn to recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

Computing

We are following a whole school scheme of work provided by Code.org. This teaches the children the skills of coding, programming and de-bugging in a fun way, linked with games and characters they are familiar with, such as Angry Birds. We will also continue to think about staying safe and being kind online.

PE

Your child's class teacher will be teaching indoor PE every Wednesday and outdoor PE every Friday, supported by our school sports coaches for some of these sessions. Indoor PE will be focused on teaching the skills of dodgeball and outdoor PE will be hockey skills.

RSE/PSCHE

This term, we will look at what kind of physical contact is acceptable, comfortable, unacceptable and uncomfortable and how to respond (including who to tell and how to tell them). We will be looking at dealing with uncomfortable feelings, such as anger and sadness, as well as how our words can impact on others. We will also focus on feeling good about yourself, standing up for yourself and self-esteem.

Music

We will be singing songs and listening to music to further develop an awareness of pitch and pulse. Mr. Beaumont, our music teacher, will be teaching these lessons.

RE

This term, we'll be looking at Christianity, focusing on authority and worship. In the second part of the term, the children will be revisiting the Easter story. Mrs. Swaysland will continue to teach these lessons.

Home Learning

Home learning will be set via **Google Classroom every Wednesday and due the following Tuesday**. This will be a reading or writing task. Additionally, the children have:

1. Personalised spelling lists of 5 words. We will check these with the children every Tuesday.
2. Times tables. A minimum of 20 minutes will be set on TTR.
3. Reading. Your child must read, at a minimum of, five times a week.

Thank you,
Year 3 Team

