

Year 3 Newsletter – Spring 1

Welcome

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a safe and wonderful Christmas break. We are so excited to get started with our Spring 1 learning; our units this half term are very exciting! Below is a summary of what we will be covering in year 3 this half term.

Reading

We will be reading every day in class. Twice a week, we will be reading a shared book. These whole class lessons will help us to develop our reading comprehension and teach us how to use skills such as inferring and predicting when we read. Twice a week, we will read a book which matches our reading level to improve our fluency. Once a week, we will be learning how to answer written comprehension questions.



As a class, we will be reading:

Lion at School and Other Stories by Philippa Pearce

Harry the Poisonous Centipede by Lynne Reid Banks

Writing

We will begin the half term by writing character descriptions, diary entries and persuasive letters based on the picture book *Arthur and the Golden Rope*. Then, we will be writing stories based on a chapter book called *Mr Penguin and the Lost Treasure*. Finally, we will be writing setting descriptions and poems based on a short film called *Taking Flight*.



Throughout all of our writing this half term, we will be learning how to use conjunctions to create subordinate clauses in sentences. We will also be learning how to punctuate direct speech, as well as continuing to add detail and description to our writing.

Maths

Continuing from Autumn 2, we will be starting this term by completing the multiplication and division unit. We will be learning our 3-, 4- and 8- times tables and division facts. Children can continue to practice at home by logging into their Times Tables Rockstars accounts and joining in with our school. Before the end of this half term, we will also move onto some work around length and perimeter, using our addition and subtraction skills to calculate measurement.



Science

Our science topic for this half term is called "Rock Detectives." We will be learning to identify the properties of different rocks using our observation skills. We will also be carrying out practical experiments to discover the properties of soil. In January, we will be taking part in an exciting fossils workshop to learn about what fossils can tell us about life in the past.



Computing

In computing, we will be looking at touch typing as our first unit of the half term. The children will be encouraged to pick up speed and accuracy when typing on a computer. Our focus will then move onto online communication where we will focus on emails. We will learn to open and respond to emails.



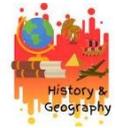
Art & Design/Design & Technology

We will be running a Design & Technology unit this half term. We will be learning about information design, and designing posters which follow a brief. Our posters will include light bulbs, and so we will be learning how to construct electric circuits to include in our creations.



Geography/History

This half term, we will be learning all about mountains and volcanoes in geography. We will learn about the layers which make up the earth. We will learn how mountains and volcanoes are formed, using maps and atlases to locate mountains and volcanoes around the world. We will also explore what happens when a volcano erupts and discover what it might be like to live near a volcano.



Music

This half term, our learning in music will be focused around one song: Three Little Birds by Bob Marley. The unit will integrate games, elements of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch, etc.), singing and playing instruments. The children will also learn to sing, play, improvise and compose alongside this song.



PE

This half term, we will have PE on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons – please remember to send your child in wearing their PE kit on these days. Our Tuesday PE lesson this half term will be dance based. The children will learn and create movement based on the Ancient Egyptians! Our second PE lesson will be centred around the game ‘basketball’. The children will learn the rules and skills needed for the game, as well as the importance of being a good team player.



PSHE

Our weekly PSHE sessions follow the Jigsaw curriculum. Our next unit is called ‘Dreams and Goals’. The children will discuss their own dreams and goals, as well as listening to other peoples’. We will learn about overcoming obstacles to achieve our goals.



RE

Our RE lessons will focus on miracles from the Bible. We will hear miracle stories from the Bible, discussing and writing about what they mean.



Enrichment

On Thursday 18th January, we will be taking part in some ballet workshops.

On Wednesday 24th January, we will be taking part in a fossils workshop.



Homework Project

Here are some activities that link to our topic. If your child completes one, please bring it in – we would love to see it!



- Research a mountain or volcano online and make a poster or leaflet to teach others about it.
- Go on a walk around your local area and see what rocks you can find. Maybe you could sketch the most interesting ones.



Skills Builder

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities



Times Tables Rockstars



Spelling Shed



Rewards

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude. Points can be 'spent' on prizes periodically.



Class information

Class Teacher: Mrs Thakrar

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Limehouse

Please remember to name your child's school jumper or cardigan.

We request that all children bring a named water bottle to school every day.

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts.

Dates for the diary!



Spring 1

Thursday 4th January - Training Day

Friday 5th January – Training Day

Monday 8th January – School reopens to pupils

W/B 12th February – Parents' Workshare Sessions (Maths) – days and timings tbc

Friday 16th February – school closes for Half Term



Spring 2

Monday 26th February – School reopens to pupils

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

Tuesday 12th March- Parents Evening; 4-7pm

Wednesday 13th March- Parents Evening; 3.30-6pm

Friday 15th March – Red Nose day – tbc

Thursday 28th March – school closes for Easter

