

Dear Class 3 Parents,

Friday 25th September 2020

Welcome back to the new school year! Mrs Saunders was of course due to join us this week but the children are in the process of making her a lovely card to let her know that we will miss her. I am thoroughly enjoying my time spent in the classroom; it is great to be in a buzzing classroom compared to the empty classrooms of Covid lockdown. Recruitment has started for Class 3 and hopefully very soon we will have appointed a new class teacher.

This term's topic is 'Here we Are'. 'Here We Are' is the title of a book that was recommended for schools returning after covid. At the beginning of any new school year we like to settle the children back in to routines and spend time reminding each other of the school values and behaviour/classroom expectations. It is not unusual for us to ask the children to complete an assessment (reading, writing, spellings, phonics and maths) to check where they are in their learning so that we know what the children have retained and what we need to do next, and this year this it has been even more crucial as part of our 'getting to know you again' and building a picture after lockdown.

As part of their topic this term, the children will be travelling back in time to explore what life was like during the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. After half term, the children will be travelling a little bit closer to home and exploring Uley and its surrounding areas.

Maths

As we started the term talking about handwashing (a lot!) we focused on our hands and statistics. We have been measuring hand spans, rounding numbers up and down, and interpreting data.

We will also be focussing on learning and revising place value and the four calculations - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Next June the year 4s will have to complete a time tables test! The expectation is that by the end of Year 4 the children should know their times tables up to 12x12 plus corresponding division facts.

The expectation by the end Year 3 is that children should know their 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 times tables plus corresponding division facts. So, let's gets practising! Hit the Button and chanting times tables are two good ways to start.

English

We started the term with the focus on writing and reading for enjoyment and with this we explored reciting tongue twisters (quite tricky!), what makes a tongue twister and how to write a tongue twister. The children have also written their very own 'magic' story and it has been great to see that some extra stories have been written at home 😊

Reading

We have been hearing the children read and taking some time to review where the children are with their reading. Reading, vocabulary and language skills are crucial as it enables children to access the rest of the school curriculum. Books that are sent home are independent reading books, and the children should be able to read and understand these with 95 – 100% accuracy. Sometimes a child may say 'this is too easy' which is great, but upon checking understanding of the text using differences levels of questioning (simple retrieval through to deeper inferencing), can then flag up a mismatch in understanding. Some questions to support the children comprehension skills will be sent home soon.

Please can I request that as part of the daily routine, reading books and reading records are brought in to school every day as we spend some time reading every day. Reading together at home little and often can have a huge impact on the children's ability to read.

Writing

Fiction: This term the class will be reading 'The Stone Age Boy' to help them learn all about what life was like in the Stone Age.

Non-fiction: 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' will focus on instructions texts.

Poetry unit: We have already started with tongue twisters, and the children will write some Christmas poetry nearer the time.

Phonics and Spelling

As with reading, phonics and spelling is an area that needs constant practice. There are lists of words that the children are expected to be able to read and spell by the end of each year group. These can be found on the school website. We have been working our way through some spellings to identify the words the children need a bit of practice with. These will be shared shortly.

Computing/ICT

E-safety lessons: The children will be learning all about the importance of powerful passwords and the importance of keeping personal information private online.

PSHE

We have been learning how germs spread. The children have responded really well to frequent handwashing and are very good at catching their sneezes in their elbows!

Now that we are all back together and we have also been looking at what makes a good friend.

Health and well-being

OK or not OK?
Human Machines
Different feelings
When feelings change.
Under pressure

Next week we will be taking part in the British Nutrition Foundation's Health Eating Week. Each day has a different focus and challenge including, moving more, drinking more water, varying your veggies, eating more grains and being mind kind. To find out more, why not visit the BNF's website <https://www.nutrition.org.uk>

Art and Design/Geography

We have already started the term exploring the history of cave art and where these were found. We have used natural resources to mark make and used charcoals to create our own cave painting to tell our own story. We will also be exploring and making our own early human jewellery.

History/Geography

I hope the children have been talking to you about chronology. We will be exploring life in the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age and have started by understanding timelines.

Modern Foreign Language

Bonjour!

Basic French vocabulary will play a part of the curriculum. We have already started with days of the weeks. We use La Jolie Ronde to support this. Why not practice together at home too.

Science

Electricity!
We have started the term finding out what the children know about electricity and addressing any misconceptions. The children will be making circuits with bulbs, motors and buzzers and planning and creating a way to introduce electricity to early humans.

R.E.

During R.E. lessons Class 3 will be exploring the question 'What do Christians learn from the creation story?' and 'What is the trinity and why is it important for Christians?'

Physical Education.

We have had a go at circuit training that involve multi-skills – agility ladder, shuttle runs, side hops etc.
Jump Start Jonny gets us moving in class when we need to move more!
PE lessons will be on Friday afternoons plus any other times we can go outside. Please bring PE kit to school and we will send them home at the end of the term.

Music

We will be exploring descriptive sounds and focusing on creating, performing and analysing short descriptive compositions that combine sounds, movements and words.

Supporting Education at Home - Homework

-  Activities from the homework web.
-  Mathematics
-  Rainbow Maths – these can be found on the website
-  Times tables – rote learning, hit the button, completing aural questions and completing written times tables
-  Reading – daily reading
-  Phonics and Spelling – daily phonics and spelling practice – words lists can be found on the website but spellings will be sent home shortly.
-  Any other areas we feel the children will benefit from a bit more practise, we will let you know.

I will keep you updated regarding recruitment for Class 3. In the meantime, we are in the playground at the end of the day if you need a chat.

Kind regards,

Zoe Mandeville, Sara Delrosa and Philippa Nash