



Parents and Carers Information Leaflet – Spring 2 Year 3



Class Teacher – Mrs Sarah Marsh

Teaching Assistant – Ms Jacinta Dore



Dear Parents and Carers

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term! I hope you had a restful and enjoyable break.

Important Dates:

Thursday 5th March 2020

World Book Day

Friday 3rd April 2020

Easter Service at Chapel – 9.05am

Friday 3rd April 2020

End of term – 2.00pm

General Information

PE:

This half-term, Year 3 will have P.E. on Wednesdays. On days that children have P.E. lessons scheduled, they are asked to come into school wearing their P.E. kit. They will remain in their kit for the whole day.

Homework:

Homework is set on a Friday and should be returned to school the following Wednesday. Children will be set Reading, Spelling, English and Mathematics homework each week. It is important that your child completes their homework in order to support their learning in class and to ensure that they make good progress throughout the year. Thank you for your support in this. If you would like advice on supporting your child with homework, please see your class teacher.

Please read with your child daily. Children should aim to read at home for **at least 10 minutes per day**.

Belongings:

Please label all belongings with a permanent marker, and ensure that your child has their book bag with them every day (book bags are available to buy from the school office).

Curriculum Overviews

English: This half-term we will begin by exploring the narrative text type through Aesop's Fables. Writing outcomes will include: writing character descriptions, retelling an Aesop fable and writing an original fable.

In the second part of the half-term, we will read *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King. A modern classic, *Stig of the Dump* is the story of Barney; a bored young boy staying with his grandparents on the chalk Downs of southern England. One day, he falls over the edge of an old chalk pit and through the roof of a den where he encounters Stig, a caveman with shaggy, black hair and bright black eyes. We will use the book as a stimulus for our writing and Destination Reader lessons.

Spelling: This half-term, we will be focussing on the following spelling rules:

- recapping prefixes
- prefixes dis- and mis-
- prefixes in- and il-
- prefixes im-
- prefixes ir-
- prefixes re-

We will also focus on Year 3 common exception words. Common exception words are words that do not follow the common phonetic spelling rules of the language, or where the usual rules act in an unusual way. Each week, a list of spellings will be sent home, comprising of words relating to the spelling rule of the week, and also some common exception words. Please practise these with your child.

Reading: Children take part in whole class Destination Reader lessons every day, with a focus on developing more complex comprehension skills. Destination Reader is an approach to teaching reading at KS2 that can be applied to all texts. Its main focus is on developing key reading strategies which support comprehension and enable a deeper understanding of texts. There is also a focus on partner work and discussion, and children are taught learning behaviours that support dialogue. They will read with an adult at least once a week.

Handwriting: Children will revise joining to f. They will then move onto joining from f to an ascender, to no ascender and to an anticlockwise letter. Finishing with ff.

Mathematics:

In the following areas, we will learn to:

Measurement: Money

- convert pounds and pence
- add and subtract amounts of money to give change, using both £ and p in practical contexts

Statistics

- interpret and present data using bar charts, pictograms and tables
- solve one-step and two-step questions using information presented in scaled bar charts and pictograms and tables

Measurement: Length and Perimeter

- measure, compare, add and subtract: lengths (m/cm/mm); mass (kg/g); volume/capacity (l/ml)
- measure the perimeter of simple 2D shapes

Religious Education: In R.E. our learning question is, 'How do Christians believe following Jesus' new commandment and His two greatest commandments make a difference?' and 'Who is the most important person in the Easter Story?'. We will be exploring:

- Jesus' new commandment and the two greatest commandments and begin to understand what they mean to Christians
- identify and talk about some of the key characters in the Gospel accounts of Holy Week, what happens to them and what they may feel and think at different points in these narratives
- describe and explain why people may have the same or a range of different responses to the roles played by the key characters in the Gospel accounts of Holy Week
- use specific Christian and other religious language accurately to describe and compare different beliefs about the experiences and the moral dilemmas faced by the key characters in the Gospel accounts of Holy Week

Science: Our Science themes this half-term are 'Light' and 'Animals, Including Humans'.

We will learn to:

- recognise that we need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light
- notice that light is reflected from surfaces
- recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect your eyes
- recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by an opaque object
- find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change
- identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition and that they cannot make their own food: they get nutrition from what they eat
- identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement

Computing: Computing will be taught in the Summer Term.

History: History will be taught in the first half of the Summer Term.

Geography: Our enquiry question for Geography this half-term is, 'How varied is the landscape of the USA?'. We will explore:

- where the USA is located
- the landscape of Arizona
- how the land is used in the Great Plains
- the landscape and climate of Alaska
- which areas of the USA are densely populated and why

Music: All the learning in Music this half-term is focussed around one song: 'The Dragon Song'. We will be using our imagination and working together as a class to create our own performance of this song.

We will learn to:

- listen and appraise The Dragon Song and other traditional tunes/folk melodies from around the world
- participate in musical activities to build knowledge and understanding about music
- perform and share learning throughout the unit of work

Physical Education: Our areas of focus for PE are Rhythmic Movements and Basketball.

We will learn to:

PSHE: Our area of focus for PSHE this half-term is Mental health and emotional wellbeing: strengths and challenges. We will learn about:

- celebrating achievements and setting personal goals
- dealing with put-downs
- positive ways to deal with set-backs

Art: Our art skills focus for this half-term will be printing. We will learn to:

- experiment more widely with different variables, such as shape, pressure, method, tools, materials or colour, and begin to think more creatively about the application of techniques, setting themselves standards and visual goals
- begin to be more discerning in their use of pattern and balance in colour and composition, experimenting with a wider range of tools and techniques
- understand and use appropriate and relevant vocabulary
- use planning and predicting skills and make choices as to how they can develop or modify their own printing
- develop a recognition and greater awareness of print in their own environment and culture, and of printing in other cultures, countries and periods of history



Attendance and Punctuality

It is important that children arrive at school by 8.55, as registers are taken and checked first thing and any absences chased up by the office staff. Remember to call and let us know if your child is going to be absent for any reason so we can record this in the register.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of attendance and punctuality. Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that children and young people maximise their learning potential and have the best opportunities in adult life.

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

Arriving **5 minutes** late every day adds up to over **3 days** lost each year.

Arriving **15 minutes** late every day is the same as being absent for **2 weeks** a year.

Arriving **30 minutes** late every day is the same as being absent for **19 days** a year.