



Year Three Autumn Term Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 3. The children are all enjoying settling into their new classes, getting to know staff and their classmates. We anticipate a very smooth start to the new term.

This term, the children will be working on several mini topics, with project-based outcomes for each. Our first topic is 'Volcanoes' and our work will culminate in the children doing a presentation to KS1 on what they have learnt.

Teaching staff:

Mr Smurthwaite and Mr Smith (Class teachers)

Mr Robinson and Mrs Henson (TA's)

Mr Tom Andrew (P.E) and Mr Newton (music)

Curriculum coverage:

In **English** we will be studying story writing, non-chronological reports, dictionaries and poetry which will be linked with other subjects. We will also have focused weekly sessions on spellings and daily guided reading sessions. In Year 3, we encourage children to become more independent in their approach to their learning, therefore the expectation will be that Year 3 children will change their own reading books when they need to.

In **Maths** the children will work on objectives from the national curriculum using the White Rose Maths scheme. The emphasis is on using a variety of approaches to solve problems and to increase accuracy and efficiency as well as explain their thinking and processes. Children will find that having a secure knowledge of multiplication facts (times tables) will be very useful, which may be something you would like to support them with at home. Please note - time is a difficult concept for some children to grasp so any support at home would be appreciated e.g. asking your child questions about the time, practise using a wrist watch, reading timetables/T.V. schedules etc.

In **Science** we will use a wide range of approaches to develop skills in general and will look specifically at applying these through studying and investigating the topics of Rocks and Soils and, in the second half of term, Skeletons and their Function.

I.C.T. is used to support the wider curriculum and through developing computer skills following the 'Switched on Computing' scheme of work. Between now and Christmas, our topics are 'We are programmers' and 'We are bug fixers.' Children will also learn how to keep themselves safe online

and we strongly encourage parents to be extra vigilant when children are researching and using the internet.

Our work to promote Social and Emotional aspects of learning will focus on New Beginnings, Getting on and Falling Out and the Anti-bullying agenda. Circle Time and thinking skills sessions also provide opportunities to develop understanding of a wide range of issues. We will be promoting the national anti-bullying week, road safety week and the NSPCC's PANTS campaign.

Our R.E. work will be focused on Christianity, specifically on places of worship and festivals. We aim to develop links with a local church in Yarm to facilitate educational visits to this community based resource.

In Art we will be linking our work to our topics. We hope to do some sculpture work on volcanoes and will be looking at the works of Salvador Dali.

Both classes will go swimming in the first half of the term, every day for one week. During this week, the children's swimming ability will be assessed to see if they are already at the required national standard. Any children who do not achieve this, will have access to further swimming provision later in the year.

P.E. lessons will take place on Wednesday afternoon with DFC coaching and will be outdoors (weather permitting) and indoors on a Monday afternoon. Please ensure children have the correct 'kit' for every eventuality.

We will continue to develop our approach to Modern Foreign Languages by providing regular French lessons.

This term's music will be taught by Mr Newton, a specialist teacher, who will be supporting the children's overarching topic work, through songs and compositions.

Homework

Homework is to be completed in your child's homework book and the presentation of their work must meet the school's expected standard. Please make sure your child completes their homework using a **pencil** - no biro, coloured pens or coloured pencils, please.

Homework grid - A termly grid of activities will be given out. Each child is required to choose and complete **one** activity each week, which is to be handed in on a Thursday. The books will be returned to your child on the Friday for work to be completed for the following week.

Spellings - Spellings will be handed out on a Friday. These can be from the Year 3 and 4 national spelling list, on patterns and rules taught or commonly occurring spelling errors. Your child will need to learn these spellings for the following Friday. Just spending a few minutes each day, writing the word down a couple of times, will help this learning.

Reading - Although we provide daily reading sessions within the class, we also expect that pupils read regularly at home (3 times a week). To help encourage this we will be introducing a new Home Reading Record. Each time your child reads to an adult or family member at home, please sign their book as evidence of this.

Other topic based work may be given out on occasions and this will be explained to your child when it occurs.

Other information.

Could you please make sure the children have a healthy snack and water for Prime Time? The water bottle should have a sport style lid to minimise spillage if it should accidentally be knocked over.

We look forward to a very productive term. If you need to contact us for whatever reason, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Remember, we are eager to start your child's learning each morning, so after school or via the school office, would be preferable.

King regards,

Mr Smurthwaite and Mr Smith

