

Year 3 Newsletter

Autumn Term, 2017

A warm welcome from class teacher
Miss McConville
and teaching assistants
Miss Fairclough and Mrs Harvey

Dear Parents/Carers,

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Team Year 3. My name is Miss McConville, Year 3's class teacher. Also working within Year 3 are Miss Fairclough and Mrs Harvey, the teaching assistants.

As the children complete their transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 you may notice a few changes. These changes will include some routines and expectations.

Please read on to find out what we will be covering this half term.

Mathematics

This half term we will be focusing on a developing a strong understanding of a number of mathematical strands including counting, place value and number problems.

As well as teaching children how to improve their mathematical fluency we will also be developing their reasoning and mastery skills using a number of teaching techniques. Within each maths lesson, children will always be given some reasoning problems so they can apply their learning to real world situations.

During Year 3 we will focus on the 3, 4, 6 and 8 timetables, as well as revisiting the 2, 5 and 10's.



Spellings

The spellings your child receives are from the National Curriculum for Year 3.

Although the children may find the words difficult, they will over a period of time be taught strategies so please encourage your child to persevere. We are looking for children to improve on their use of spelling strategies and not to know them already.

Children will be tested every Friday with their scores being placed in their planners, along with their new spellings.

Chi

English

This half term in literacy we will be looking at the following genres:

- Stories with familiar settings
- Discussion texts

Both styles of text will be linked to the class' topic – The Stone Age. To consider a familiar setting we will look at the book 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura and how this links to friendship.

For the discussion text children will consider the question "Would you like to live in the Stone Age?" Through their writing the children will be able to present points for and against living in the Stone Age.

Science

This term we will be looking at two areas of science:

- Rocks: During this topic we will be comparing and grouping different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties, as well as understanding how fossils are created.
- Plants: In this area of science we will look at the functions of different parts of flowering plants, investigate how water is transported around a plant as well as exploring seed dispersal and pollination.

History

This term's topic will focus on The Stone Age time period. We will be comparing how people lived and how their settlements evolved. Children will study the settlement uncovered at Skara Brae, allowing them to begin to understand how the past is constructed from a range of sources.

Geography

In this area of study we will be focusing on the northern and southern hemisphere, as well as being able to follow directions on a map. This will be linked to Stone Age people's movement around the world.

Religious Education

This term we are exploring Hinduism with a focus on the celebration of Diwali. Children will be looking at how it is celebrated, taking part in activities associated with the festival.

Art and Design

Continuing with our 'The Stone Age' theme children will create their own cave paintings, using a range of materials including pencil and charcoal, mimicking the materials the Stone Age people would have used. Throughout the term we will be using a variety of art materials and techniques, developing our mastery of our art skills.

Key Dates

- **Parents Evening: Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th September (3.30 pm – 5.30 pm)**
- **Key Stage 2 Harvest Celebration: Tuesday 17th October (9.10 am)**
- **Class Assembly: Friday 20th October (9.10 am)**



Star of the Day!

Every day Miss McConville, Miss Fairclough and Mrs Harvey will nominate one child to be 'Star of the Day'.

Children who have shone brightly all day could be nominated.

Examples of shining brightly include resilience with their work, being a good friend or overcoming a challenge they may be facing.

The star of the day has the privilege of sitting on 'the special chair' all day, with the special cushion whilst on the carpet.



Design and Technology

Linked to the 'Stone Age' children will research, plan and design a new style of dwelling. Children will be encouraged to innovate and communicate their ideas, bringing them to life.

French

Another big change from Key Stage 1 is the introduction of a modern foreign language. The class will soon begin their learning of French. We will explore the basics of the language, allowing the children to focus on their pronunciation and oral understanding.

PE and Dance

PE is held on Thursday mornings and is led by the sports coaches. **Every Thursday please can you bring your child to school in their PE kit** (with their school uniform in their bag).

Dance will take place on Friday afternoons. We will be exploring different styles of dance and movement creating our own dance sequences in line with 'The Stone Age' topic.

Physical, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE)

In PSHE this term we are focusing on our feelings and emotions to ensure a smooth transition to Year 3.

Final note:

Planners: These must be signed every night and brought into school every day. Planners are checked daily and can be used to pass a message from you to Miss McConville, Miss Fairclough and Mrs Harvey.

Homework: Homework sheets will be given out every Friday and should be returned by the following Thursday. If your child misplaces their sheet, additional sheets can be requested.

Thank you for your support, Miss McConville, Miss Fairclough and Mrs Harvey.