

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 3 Newsletter – Spring Term 2010

Maths

The topics to be followed this term are:

- Place Value – ordering whole numbers, estimating and rounding;
- Mental calculation strategies – for adding, subtracting, doubling, halving, and multiplying by 10 and 100;
- Solving word problems;
- Rapid recall of addition and subtraction facts;
- Multiplication and division using the 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times tables
- Drawing and identifying lines of symmetry in shapes
- Using positional and directional vocabulary to locate places on a grid
- Using compass points to travel from one point to another.

You will notice that some of this work is a repeat of last term's work. That is the whole idea of the National Numeracy Strategy. We are to revisit these topics each term so that the children can revise and build on their previous knowledge. Please help your child to get their BRONZE times tables award by learning their 2, 5 & 10 times tables.

English

This term Literacy will include work on:

- Myths
- Letter writing
- Diary Entries
- Instructions
- Poems to perform
- Language play
- Information texts

Science

During the first half term we will be studying how plants grow and the purpose of each part of a plant. After half term we will be looking at materials and investigating their properties.

History

We will be learning about the Romans, finding out where they came from, how they lived why and when they attacked England and what happened to them. We will also find out about what they left behind.

Art/DT

Every child needs to have an art overall at school – an old shirt or T-shirt of mums or dads would be fine – as we will be using a variety of materials and do not want to get uniforms covered in glue, paint, clay, etc. This term we will be looking at making a model villa and surrounding farm land. We will also be making a small mosaic from clay.

RE

We will be studying Christianity with the theme of 'Lord of the Dance'.

PE and Games

Please could you send your child with appropriate clothes for indoor and outdoor PE. They will need shorts and a plain T-shirt, trainers and a tracksuit for colder days. Please send PE kits to school on a Monday and they can go home on a Friday for washing if needs be. The children will be learning about balances and sequences in gymnastics and invasive ball games in outdoor PE.

Music

The children will be exploring rhythm and melodies and learning songs to perform for an audience.

ICT

The children love using the new laptop trolleys. They will continue to improve their word processing skills this term. We will also be using ICT to enhance all areas of the curriculum and for research work.

PSHCE/SEAL

The two main topics this term are 'Going for goals' and 'Good to be me.' We will also be looking at citizenship and democracy.

Home Learning Activities

Reading

Through the English lessons your child will be reading in a group situation at least once every week. This will be from graded reading books, which are chosen to suit that group's general reading ability. Please can you listen to your child read as much as possible. They are never too good to stop reading to adults even when they become a "free reader". Ten minutes EVERY day would provide regular practice and would emphasise to them just how important reading really is. As teachers we also listen to the children read in many other areas across the curriculum. In fact we never stop!

Spellings

Every Friday the children will be given a list of spellings, which will be tested on the next Friday. They will continue to have mystery words as part of the test. We would appreciate it if you would spend time with your child learning them. If one particular week the spellings appear easier for your child you may want to make them into a wordsearch or crossword.

Maths

It is really important that you continue to support your child with times tables. It would be very helpful if you could reinforce some of our work in the classroom by involving your child in short, mental arithmetic puzzles, e.g. adding 3 digits together, counting on and back in 10s and 100s, number bonds of 10, 20 and 100, doubling and halving.

Topic

Our topic this term is the Romans! Occasionally we may ask the children to do some research work at home relating to our topic. Please ensure that homework is returned each Monday.

We feel that this is ample work for these Year 3 children, when they have spent a long day at school concentrating. They also need time to enjoy out-of-school activities and hobbies!

NB. Please note that while we are waiting for new water fountains to be installed it is essential that your child has a water bottle at their disposal.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Cronin, Mrs Bee and Mrs Richardson
Class Teachers