

Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter - Summer 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely Easter break. It's lovely to be back at school and to see everyone again. The children and I are quickly settling into what is going to be a very busy and interesting term.

You may remember that we have a new curriculum in school with significantly higher expectations about children's attainment. I have been delighted with the children's positive attitude towards these new challenges and their progress towards age group expectations.

English

Our focus this term is based around Charlotte's Web by E B White. We will be writing informal and formal letters, writing non chronological reports based around animals and mini beasts, writing play scripts and poetry all based around the story of Charlotte's Web.

The new curriculum places high emphasis on how the enjoyment of reading is vital in developing children's reading skills. Please continue to share books with your child - read the words and then discuss what the book is about. To improve your child's reading stamina (being able to read a good chunk of text in a reasonable amount of time) you could aim to read for approximately 15 minutes 3 nights a week.

We will be continuing our weekly guided reading sessions and any parents/carers/grandparents that are available between 9.00 and 9.25 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning to help with reading would receive a very warm welcome!

Useful websites for reading/phonics:

www.myths.e2bn.org/mythsandlegends

www.lettersandsounds.com_games

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.familylearning.co.uk/phonics_gameshtml

www.ictgames.com/dinosaureggs.phonics

www.ictgames.com/phonics_fighter4.html

www.bbc.co.uk (KS1 Bitesize Literacy)

www.oxfordreadingowl.co.uk

May I thank you for your continued support with homework especially spellings. Please remind the children to form letters neatly and accurately when they are doing homework.

Maths

Thank you for your continued support with times table homework. The demands of the new maths curriculum means that quick recall of number facts (number pairs that make 100, number doubles to 100, counting in 4's, 8's and 50's) is essential. We will be learning about how to tell the time using 24 hour clock, use money and recognise fractions including equivalent fractions such as 1 whole = 2 halves and 2 quarters = 1 half etc. We will also be learning equivalent measures eg. 1km=1000m, 1metre=100cm, 1cm=10mm, 1 litre =1000ml, 1/2litre=500ml, 1/4 litre= 250ml, 1kg= 1000grs, 1/2kg=500grs, 1/4 litre=250grs and reinforcing the work covered on seconds, minutes, days, months and years. Any help you could give practising the time would be brilliant

All children have free access to RM maths (accessed through the home page of our school website) the

children use this programme daily in school and we are encouraging the children to use this at home for extra practise.

The children need to be really secure with the 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 6x, 8x and 10x tables and related division facts. Tables to be learnt will be sent home on Friday, with their spelling sheet, to practise for the following Friday's test.

PLEASE REMIND CHILDREN THAT FRIDAY IS HOMEWORK DAY BUT THAT HOMEWORK BOOKS SHOULD BE IN BY THURSDAY FOR NEXT WEEKS HOMEWORK TO BE STUCK IN AND GONE THROUGH, FOR THE CHILDREN TO TAKE HOME ON FRIDAY.

Science

We will be continuing to learn about animal habitats, plants and light and shadows. We will be recording our own practical experiments and learning how to make a fair test.

Our topic work based around Charlotte's Web by E B White involves links with animals, plants and habitats as well as looking at parts of the United States and comparing it with the UK. In R.E we will be learning about people who have been called by God while PHSE involves learning strategies to cope with friendship. In ICT the children will learn how to make a cartoon strip using speech bubbles and use Google maps and Google earth to find out more about places in America.

We will be swimming for the first 5 weeks of the summer term at the Dolphin Centre. Children will need a swimming costume, towel and a swimming cap for girls, (goggles are not necessary but can be used if your child prefers.) Children are **NOT** allowed to wear ear rings to swim so please make arrangements if your child has pierced ears for them NOT to be wearing ear rings on a Wednesday. We are aiming on being back at school for 3.30pm but may be delayed due to traffic. P.E. will be on Friday. It is a good idea to send in PE kit and leave it in school until half term to avoid children forgetting their kit. Could you please ensure that children with pierced ears only wear studs for health and safety and that they do not wear earrings on PE days.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always in the playground before and after school for quick questions or to arrange an appointment for anything that needs a longer chat.

Please note that due to Government legislation leave will not be granted for holidays unless there are extenuating circumstances.

By working together we can ensure that children approach new challenges with confidence and achieve success.

Your interest and support is greatly appreciated.

Ms. M. Allison