

Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter - Spring 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas 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.

English

Our focus this term is based around traditional stories such as Jack and the Beanstalk, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Cinderella, The Gingerbread Man and Little Red Riding Hood. We are also learning about myths and legends such as the Lambton Worm, Theseus and the Minotaur and Medusa. We will be writing our own stories and quests based on traditional tales, myths and legends as well as writing character profiles. The new curriculum places high emphasis on how the enjoyment of reading is vital in developing children's reading skills. Please continue to share a book with your child every night - 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 read for approximately 15 minutes every night. 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

Work on grammar, punctuation and spelling continues to be an important part of the curriculum. The children have been trying hard with learning spellings from our new spelling programme and may I thank you for your continued support with the children and helping them with their spelling homework. 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. Again, this will form part of the children's homework. We will be learning about how to tell the time, 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, 1meter=100cm, 1cm=10mm, 1 litre =1000ml, 1/2litre=500ml, $\frac{1}{4}$ litre= 250ml, 1kg= 1000grs, 1/2kg=500grs, $\frac{1}{4}$ litre=250grs and reinforcing the work covered on seconds, minutes, days, months and years. Any help you could give (practising the time, talking about fractions in food etc.) 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 magnets and rocks. We will be recording our own practical experiments and learning how to make a fair test.

Our topic work involves learning more about the 'Egyptians' and this will be a lovely focus for our art work. In R.E. we will be looking at how Jesus changed the lives of people, Mother Theresa and Easter while PHSE involves learning strategies to cope with difficult situations and keeping ourselves safe in a range of situations. In ICT the children will continue with learning how to write their own computer programme. [Useful website are](#)

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/homework/Egypt.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians/>

P.E. will be on Tuesday and 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.

I look forward to seeing you at open evening on the Thursday 3rd March or open afternoon Friday 4th March but, in the meantime, 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