

## Year Three Curriculum Newsletter – Spring 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! The children have settled back into the classroom routine very well and it has been lovely hearing all about how your families spent the festive period. We have another busy term planned with lots of exciting learning.

We will begin this term by launching our ‘Where Shall We Go on Holiday?’ **Geography** topic, which focuses on the Alpine Region. Children will learn to use atlases to locate the seven continents and relate this to the location of the Alpine Region. Children will be able to explain how the Alps are formed, making links with their learning around forces in Science lessons, and will learn about how homes are adapted to suit the Alpine climate. The main industries in this region will be studied, and children will be able to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of tourism in this area.

**Reading-** I am pleased to see that the majority of the class are reading regularly at home. Daily home reading makes a huge difference to the progress your child makes in all areas of the curriculum. I would appreciate your support in encouraging children to read as much and as widely as possible, and in recording what your child has read in their reading records. We also practice reading skills including making inferences, summarising and making predictions in short daily sessions in class using a wide range of texts. To further support your child’s progress in reading, we use the Reading Eggs program in school. Children are given time within school to complete their weekly task, but any extra practise at home would also be welcomed.

**Writing-** In this half term we will continue to write for a range of purposes, practising skills in fiction, non-fiction and poetry writing. Children will continue to learn how to use paragraphs to group information in their writing, and will use headings and sub-headings to support the presentation of their work. We will also work on using apostrophes to show plural possessions and using inverted commas to punctuate speech. Children will be given the opportunity to practise their writing skills across the curriculum.

**Spelling-** In Year 3, we learn a range of spelling rules which children will be given the opportunity to practice in their writing. In addition to this, your child will bring home a list of spellings linked to the spelling rule they are learning that week. Please encourage your child to practice these spellings during the week. The weekly spelling test will be on Friday.

**Handwriting-** Handwriting is extremely important. Your child will have a short daily handwriting session, focusing on correct joins, as well as ensuring that letters are formed correctly and are of the right size. Good pencil grip and good posture is extremely important for neat handwriting. Please reinforce the need for good presentation when your child is completing their homework.

**Maths –** We have begun the Spring term with further consolidation work on our 3, 4 and 8 times tables, using mental skills to solve multiplication and division problems. Children will then learn to use the formal method of column multiplication, and will learn to solve division problems with remainders. Children will continue to practice their mental recall of their times tables, using formal methods only to solve more complicated problems. Children will add and subtract amounts of money to give change, using both pounds and pence to solve problems with practical contexts. We will then move on to interpretation and presentation of data using bar charts,

pictograms and tables. Following this, children will work on measurement, measuring lengths and converting millimetres into centimetres and metres and vice versa. During this unit children will also compare, add and subtract measurements, as well as learning to measure and calculate perimeter. Our maths work this term will conclude with a unit on fractions, finding and representing halves, thirds, quarters and tenths. Children will learn to place fractions on a number line, and find fractions of different sets of objects. Throughout the term, your child's learning will be supported by tasks set on Mathletics. Completing these tasks will support the progress children make in class.

**Science** - This term we will be learning about forces and magnets. Children will learn to identify the forces acting on objects and will investigate the effects of friction of different surfaces. Investigations will be carried out into the strength of different magnets, with children making predictions, taking measurements, recording and explaining results.

**P.E.**- Children need a PE kit of shorts, t shirt and plimsolls. Please ensure that children with pierced ears only wear studs for health and safety reasons.

**R.E.** – We will begin this term with our Hinduism topic, learning about key Hindu beliefs, festivals and stories. We will learn about the key features of mandirs, Hindu places of worship, and will compare Hindu worship in a mandir and at home. Children will learn about what it means to be a Hindu in today's society, both in Britain and across the world.

**Art** – To link with our Alpine topic, children will be learning about the work of European artists. We will use different artistic skills, including painting, drawing, printing and sculpture to create work in the style of a range of artists.

**Homework** - Homework is sent home on Friday and is due to be returned on Wednesday. Spellings will be sent home to be learnt, along with a curriculum task. Please also continue to encourage your child to practice Reading Eggs, Times Tables Rock stars and Mathletics at home.

**Hometime Routine**- As in the Autumn term, the children come out of school in a line. When each child points out their parent or carer, I let them go. I appreciate that if your child comes out near the back of the line you may have to wait for a few minutes, but my priority is to keep your child safe and I thank you for your patience.

If, at any time throughout the year you have a question or concern, please come to see me. I am confident that we will have another successful term, working together, to ensure your child achieves their full potential.

Miss T. Currington