

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Welcome to Year 3

All your children have made a very positive start to Year 3. They have all settled in and adapted to the new routines. They are a lovely group of children and we are delighted to be teaching them. We have a lot of exciting things planned for the year ahead and we hope that all the children will have a fun and happy learning experience. The aim of this letter is to lay out our expectations for the year. We will be sending home a half termly newsletter to keep you up to date with day to day life in Year 3. We are also very happy to meet with you if you ever have concerns or would just like to touch base. We are very excited about the coming year!

### Expectations at Key Stage 2

- Please ensure that your son or daughter is wearing the correct school uniform at all times (see website) and that all clothing is clearly named, especially their jumpers and cardigans.
- No toys to be brought to school. Own pens/pencils etc. may be brought in but they will be the responsibility of your child and are not essential.
- There will not be time for 'Show and Tell' every day. Special items to show or experiences to discuss will be at the discretion of the teacher or on an agreed time and day basis in discussion with the whole class.
- Snacks: children can bring a snack for break but this should not be sweets (including chocolate bars, crisps and chewing gum). If possible it should be fruit.
- Reading journals are to be brought into school every day.
- PE kit to be brought in to school every Monday and taken home every Friday.
- Year 3 will be swimming in the Spring term and will require costume, towel, swimming hat and goggles this applies to both girls and boys. Failure to provide the FULL kit will mean your child is unable to enter the pool (St. Paul's rules!). Hats are available from the office.

### The Year 3 Team

3H - Miss Hallam - Class Teacher  
Mrs Peare - Teaching Assistant  
Pat - Learning Support Assistant  
Lubna - Learning Support Assistant

3C - Miss Coward - Class Teacher  
Lubna - Learning Support Assistant

## **The Year 3 Curriculum**

Children in Year 3 will follow the new National Curriculum 2013 for all subjects. Details of this can be found at [www.gov.uk\National\\_curriculum](http://www.gov.uk/National_curriculum)

The topics covered in Year 3 this year are as follows:

Autumn - Stone Age to Iron Age/Rocks and Soils/Forces and Magnets/Location knowledge

Spring - Egyptians/Animals/Mapping Skills

Summer - Weather around the World/Plants/Light/Climate and Location

We encourage children to research extra information on the topics listed as it gives them a good knowledge base to kick off new topics.

The curriculum forecast for the Autumn first half of the Autumn term has been published on the school website. The whole year curriculum forecast will be published in the near future.

## **Rewards**

In Year 3 we will be using class points to praise positive behaviour and good work. Completed class points will be awarded a 'dip in the prize bag'. Stickers, certificates 'Bling Blings' and Golden Standard awards will also be given for good behaviour and outstanding work or effort. In the rare case that a child makes a poor behaviour decision or is not focussed on the task in hand after several warnings they may be given a warning and if the behaviour is not changed, subsequently, a strike. A strike may mean they lose a short amount or all of their playtime. This is in line with the school's behaviour policy and you will be notified of any behaviour issues.

## **Timetable**

Prompt arrival at school is vital to ensure that children do not miss any part of the curriculum and start the school day with their classmates. Arriving late will also mean that your child will miss vital 'Early Work' such as spellings and handwriting.

PE is on a Wednesday and Thursday this term - though your child's PE kit should be in school every day 'just in case!'

We will also be continuing to learn Italian.

## **Homework**

In Key Stage 2 the quantity and complexity of homework increases significantly. It is therefore important that you support your child with their homework. This may simply be ensuring the child has a quiet place away from the TV to do their homework or to check that homework has been completed and handed in on time.

In Year 3, homework will be handed out on Thursday and should be handed in on Monday. There are some homework guidelines just inside the front cover of your child's homework books. Homework will be marked and awarded class points or

### **Reading**

There is a tendency to think that as your child progresses towards the top of the school the need to hear your child read lessens. This is not the case. It is our expectation that children will read at home every day and will have this signed off in their reading record books. We will check their reading record books daily as children regularly not reading at home may have to partake in some reading catch up.

It is vital to all learning that children can read fluently and with confidence. In Year 3 we encourage children to continue to de-code new words (using phonics) but also to use their inference skills to work out what the word might mean. When you read with your child, if they are unsure of a word ask them to re-read the sentence or read on, as it might help them to understand the word.

In addition it is important that they understand what they are reading. Ask lots of what, where, why, how questions to get them really thinking about the book.

Good reading skills come from reading widely, as well as reading frequently. You should encourage your child to read children's newspapers like First News and the Junior National Geographic magazine. If you would like to read more about supporting your child's reading at home, we recommend reading 'How to help your child read and write.' by Dominic Wyse.

### **Spelling**

As part of the New National Curriculum there are certain words that Year 3 are working towards being able to spell and understanding by the end of Year 4.

We will work on the spelling of the words in class. Your child's homework may include some spelling, where we will provide ideas about how to teach patterns and techniques to make it easier to learn them. We have attached the complete list of words they will learn by the end of Year 4. Please do not feel they need to learn them straight away, it is something we will work on over the two years.

### **Trips**

The trips for the year are still being finalised but will probably include the following:

Autumn - Stone Age workshop (at school)/Science museum/Local walk

Spring - British museum/National Gallery

Summer - Kew Gardens/Hyde Park weather centre

### **Helpers**

We are always happy for parents, Grandparents, friends etc. to come in and help on either an occasional or regular basis. We always need people to hear readers, change

books, play games with the children or work with groups on an activity. If you are able to help in anyway please let us know.

Please contact us to discuss anything. If you work and don't come to the school regularly then leave a message with the office and we will be very happy to call you at our earliest convenience. We are really looking forward to this year and getting to know your fabulous children.

With best wishes,

Victoria Coward and Naomi Hallam  
Class Teachers

