

Friday 26th September 2014

Year 3 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had a lovely start to the new school year and enjoyed meeting many of you at the curriculum forecast afternoon and on the playground. We have been busy getting stuck into our exciting new topics and the children are learning the routines of Year 3, settling well into Key Stage 2 and enjoying their first star assembly yesterday! Here is a look at what we have been up to:

Maths - The children have focussed on number and place value, ordering numbers, writing numbers in both figures and words and looking at greater than and less than. We have been completing mental maths and on a Friday enjoy a maths investigation morning where the skills taught over the week are applied to challenges and tasks. We have been adding and subtracting whole numbers, both mentally and with assistance from 100 squares, as well as practising and understanding times tables.



Literacy - We kicked off the term with a unit of work on poetry. Despite the warm weather we spotted some autumnal features so gathered ideas to write autumn acrostics focussing on adjectives and some alliteration. We then moved onto performance poetry and the children enjoyed writing poems entitled, 'Where teachers keep their pets'. The children worked hard to rhyme and perform with confidence and rhythm. These performances have been filmed and a selection can be seen on the Year 3 page of the school website. This week we have started work on the famous author Roald Dahl. We have discussed and recounted many of his books, describing why his books are so popular. The children will next be writing letters to Roald Dahl asking him questions that they want to know about his life, his stories and his characters. We have also started reading 'The Twits' as a whole class.

Science - The children have really impressed us with their enthusiasm for our 'Rocks and Soils' topic. They have described rocks, classified rocks and learnt about the 3 types of rocks, igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary. They are regularly bringing rocks and stones in to share with the class, which is inspiring learning outside the classroom. We will next be testing rocks for permeability and strength.

Topic - Our Stone Age topic is well underway and the children have really grasped the concept of the importance of the Stone Age and how this shaped the world. They have put the Stone Age in time with other historical periods, identified how we know about the Stone Age based upon evidence and looked at Stone Age clothing. If you wanted to do any research at home, the children will soon be starting some research on Stonehenge and Skara Brae.

Art & Design - We collected autumn leaves and sticks from the field to make collages, which are on display outside the classroom - these look fantastic alongside the autumn acrostics. This week the children have been designing their own Stone Age cave paintings and understanding how the paintings were used to pass on messages. They have stained their paper with coffee to make it look like a cave wall and will soon be painting their own Stone Age style cave art.





Music - Miss Hallam has been using the music programme Charanga to deliver music and singing to the year group. If the children haven't already told you or sung to you, we are learning about Bob Marley, and in particular the song, '3 Little Birds'! They will next be playing an instrument alongside the track, focussing on rhythm and staff notation.

ICT - The children have been getting to grips with basic word processing, saving work, copying and pasting pictures and using PowerPoint to create Stone Age fact files.

Homework - Thank you for the support with homework, the initial standard is very high so please keep up the hard work. The homework is given on a Thursday so that if there are any problems the children have time before the weekend to ask their teacher or borrow books, etc. Please don't hesitate to let us know.

Hong Kong Phooey curriculum targets - All Year 3 children have been assessed verbally 1:1 and in their maths groups with written times tables. The majority of children now have one or two times tables to learn for their Hong Kong Phooey target before half term. Your child's individual times tables target has been written in their reading record so look out for this today. Please support them to learn their relevant times tables by practising verbally and with written methods. The children are expected to state the whole number sentence ($1 \times 2 = 2$, $2 \times 2 = 4$, etc) not just counting in the times table (2, 4, 6, 8, etc). Please practise all the way up to $12 \times$ the given table and at random out of order ($2 \times 2 =$, $9 \times 2 =$, $12 \times 2 =$, $3 \times 2 =$). Times tables are invaluable for many areas of maths so we really want to push this. We will also support this target in school to ensure all children achieve their first target certificate. Literacy and reading targets will be set next week.

Thank yous - A big thank you to the many parents and carers who have come into school to support with individual reading, your support really is appreciated. If you wish to volunteer to do this, or support in any other way, please get in touch with your child's teacher.

Class representatives - The class representatives are parent/carer volunteers who will attend PTA meetings, circulate information from the class teacher and meet new parents. Although both classes have class representatives already if you also wish to volunteer for the role you are most welcome. The PTA invite all to attend their meetings, not just class representatives.

We will be in touch soon about trips, until then keep checking the Year 3 class page on the school website for updates and photographs.

With best wishes

Miss Hallam & Miss Coward

Diary Dates	
13 th /14 th Oct	Parent's evening
22 nd Oct	Local area walk
23 rd Oct	Harvest assembly
27 th -31 st Oct	Half term holiday
14 th Nov	Takeover day
28 th Nov	Mufti day
1 st Dec	Science museum
4 th Dec	Christmas pantomime
5 th Dec	Christmas fair
8 th Dec	Stone age workshop
16 th Dec	KS2 Christmas party
17 th Dec	School Christmas lunch
18 th Dec	Church service