

Year 3 Autumn Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

Our wonderful Year 3s have made an amazing start to the school year and have settled into life at Blue Coat brilliantly - we are very proud of them all!

The children begin their day with their class teacher, completing maths, writing and reading lessons. They then rotate around the school for their afternoon lessons. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to get to know every member of staff and receive the best teaching in every subject area.

We are very excited for the term ahead and look forward to getting to know the children better as we continue our learning journey.



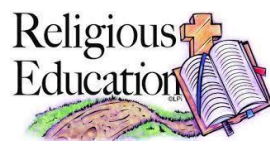
As a stimulus to write our own story we will be using a short film called '*Taking Flight*.' Then we will be moving on to writing an instruction text using the delightful picture book '*How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth*'. After that, we will read '*The Silence Seeker*', a moving and thought-provoking story that will provide the basis for writing a diary entry.



This term we will begin by focussing on place value as this underpins so many elements of maths. We will then put this knowledge into practice when we move on to develop our understanding of addition and subtraction. The term will end with units on multiplication and division - we will be introducing the children to the 3, 4 and 8 times tables. We also teach arithmetic on a daily basis which allows us the opportunity to recap and consolidate previous skills whilst also developing speed and fluency.



In Science this term, we will be looking at rocks, soils and fossils. We will learn about how rocks are formed, both naturally and human-made. We will study the properties of rocks and what they are used for in the world. Following this, soils will be investigated and the vital role soils play in life on Earth. When moving onto fossils, we will discover how they are formed and their importance to numerous fields of science.



Beginning with an exploration of the words of the Lord's Prayer, the children will spend time learning the prayers we use in school. Our first main unit will look at the story of Creation and lead into the Fall from Grace and the story of Adam and Eve. We will then consider the ways in which Christians believe that God is with us at Christmas.



In history this term, we will be answering the question, 'What changed in Britain during the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age?'. We will begin by exploring cave art and how historians are able to use the art to learn about life in the past. We will then be considering the chronology of various time periods within British and world history. We will look at a range of sources to understand what life was like for people of the past and what skills they had. Finally, we will study buildings from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age to unravel what they can tell us about the way people lived.



The United Kingdom

The children will develop a sense of where they live within the wider world. They will improve their knowledge of the United Kingdom by interpreting a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes and aerial photographs. We will look at the countries and counties of the United Kingdom and some of the key physical and human features. We will identify urban and rural areas of the British Isles, find out what is special about our National Parks and look at some famous landmarks.



This term our focus will be drawing and developing our drawing skills. We will learn to see like an artist and recognise how artists use shape in drawing. We will develop our shading skills and use them to blend tones. We will then use those skills to do imaginative drawing and explore digital media techniques.



In music this term we will be learning to play the violin and developing ensemble and performance skills. We will focus on long and short sounds. This will be achieved through listening and appraising different songs before playing along with them. There will also be the opportunity to improvise and compose (within given parameters).



After a first lesson where we (mostly) successfully managed to log on to the Chromebooks, we'll be focusing on developing ICT skills this term. Emailing, blogging, and tippy taps are just a few of the made-up sounding skills Y3 will be mastering this term. In every lesson, we'll also discuss how to stay safe online as part of our Digital Literacy skills.



In PE this term, we will begin by exploring how to apply the principles of attack and defence. There will be a particular focus on passing, moving and shooting. Pupils will also develop life skills such as respect and co-operation as they work as a team. We will also focus on developing confidence and communication skills.

French

Bonjour et bienvenue à l'école Blue Coat! In French this term the children will first learn to say hello and greet others before learning how to ask how people are and respond to the same question. We will also look at classroom instructions and learn the numbers 1-10 before being able to tell people our age. The children will be taught the phonics "un", "on", "eu" and "au" before we round off the term with the excitement of a French Christmas.



This term in Design and Technology, we are working on mechanisms. We will be designing, making and evaluating our moving pictures using linkage mechanisms and levers. We will look at a range of linkage systems in real life and then learn how to make them for ourselves. We will be able to put our learnt skills of making linkage systems into practice and will present our moving pictures to our class, using this as an opportunity to practice our oracy skills. We have been tasked with presenting information which tells people in Blue Coat a bit more about who we are and what we enjoy.



In PSHE this term, we will begin with our first Jigsaw puzzle piece: Being Me in My World. During these sessions, we will focus on getting to know each other as a class, making decisions as a group as to what behaviours make our school a great place to be, and how we as individuals can impact positively on our school environment. The children learn to recognise their self-worth and identify positive things about themselves and their achievements. They talk about new challenges and how to face them with positivity. The children talk about the need for rules and how these relate to rights and responsibilities. They talk about choices and consequences, working collaboratively and seeing things from other people's points of view. The children talk about different feelings and the ability to recognise these feelings in themselves and others. They set up their Jigsaw Journals and establish the Jigsaw Charter.

Following this, we will move on to our second puzzle piece: Celebrating Difference. This will give us the opportunity to have discussions about families, how they are all different, friendships and how we can develop strategies for resolving conflict. The children revisit the topic of bullying and talk about being a witness (bystander), they talk about how a witness has choices and how these choices can affect the bullying that is taking place. The children also talk about using problem-solving techniques in bullying situations. They talk about name-calling and choosing not to use hurtful words. They will also talk about giving and receiving compliments and the feelings associated with this. Throughout the year, the children will be encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills during Circle Time activities by contributing towards discussions when they feel happy and comfortable to do so.

If you have any concerns, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year 3 team.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Newton, Miss McCarthy and Miss Cranson