

Year 3 Spring Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

Welcome to the Spring Term in Year 3! The children have settled back into school life seamlessly following the Christmas break and we are so pleased to have them back. Year 3 continue to demonstrate our Christian Values and remain kind, loving and hardworking children that we are exceptionally proud to teach.

Homework is set on a Thursday, due to be completed by the following Thursday morning. We will continue to set one spelling and one maths task on EdShed. We also ask the children to read for 20 minutes daily- this can be independent or reading aloud to an adult. Year 3 are spending a lot of time working on our times table facts. We have recapped the 2x, 5x and 10x table and are currently working on our 4s and 8s (with the aim of moving onto our 3s as soon as possible). Any additional support you could give your children at home with learning these facts would be very much appreciated.

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for your continued support. We look forward to an exciting term ahead.

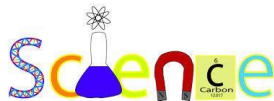
Mrs Hodgins, Miss Newton and Mrs Corbin



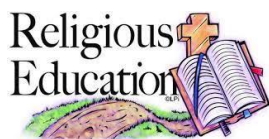
In English, we are currently using the magical picture book *Leon and the Place Between* by Angela McAllister and Grahame Baker-Smith as inspiration for writing our own setting description of the circus and the mysterious 'place between'. The children have impressed us with their vivid imaginations and we cannot wait to see what writing they produce. We will then use *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit, which brings to life the tragedy of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79AD, to write a letter from the point of view of a fictional child who escapes the disaster. Next, we will use the traditional tale of *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Michael Morpurgo, a prize-winning author of books such as *War Horse*, to write a character description and create our own fable.



We are currently learning about multiplication and division, with our focus being on the 3, 4 and 8 times tables. Quick recall of these tables will stand the children in good stead for our future maths units. Therefore, any help in supporting the children to learn these tables at home will be greatly appreciated. We'll share some suggestions via Class Dojo but feel free to be as creative as you like. We will then build on our understanding of times tables by multiplying and dividing 2 digit numbers. Later in the term the children will learn about length and perimeter before moving on to learn about fractions.



During the Spring term, we will be exploring the topic of Animals Including Humans. We will look at nutrition and what comprises a healthy, balanced diet. We will also be looking at the human skeleton and its functions. We will compare our skeletons with those of other animals.



Our first topic this term is 'People of God', with a focus on the question, 'What is it like for someone to follow God?' So far we have discussed the idea of covenants and looked at the stories of Noah and Abraham. Next, we will explore the deeper meaning of festivals across all faiths/worldviews.



This term, we are beginning our study of the Ancient Egyptians. Our work in lessons will aim to answer the question: What were the achievements of the Ancient Egyptians and how do they compare to those of Britain's first people? This unit allows the children to study the achievements of one of the world's earliest civilisations and make comparisons to the time periods in British history they have previously studied (the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages). This will be achieved through the use of sources and artefacts relating to religious beliefs, housing and the achievements of people during these times.



Year 3 will explore the world's main **biomes**. These areas of similar weather, vegetation and animal life include rainforest, desert, savannah, grassland, woodland and tundra.

What lives in a biome depends on how:

- **warm** or **cold** it is
- how **dry** or **wet** it is
- how fertile the **soil** is

We will focus on polar regions and find out about the retreating ice caps.



In music this term, we will be further developing our performance skills through singing and playing tuned percussion. We will look at some more traditional songs such as folk songs and sea shanties, such as "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and "When the Saints go Marching In". The children will be introduced to songs in different time signatures and songs which change time signatures. The children will begin to read simple notation. We will also begin to explore composition with given parameters using our imagination.

COMPUTING

In Computing this term, we're diving into Scratch to develop our coding skills. Children will be making a conversation between two sprites and an interactive display, amongst other exciting projects. This is also Y3's Oracy focus subject for this term, so we'll be building up our vocabulary and confidence in talking about what they're doing in coding.



This term we are being inspired by the work of sculptor Henry Moore. We will learn a range of techniques to allow us to work effectively with clay and will go on to make our own sculptures.



Gymnastics - the children are developing their balance and control in gymnastics lessons. They will be working hard to create a sequence of movements to be performed.
Net and wall games - this term the children will be focussing on tennis. They will be learning how to control the ball, how to hold the racquet and receiving and sending a ball before applying these skills in a game scenario.

French

In French, we will be learning about the family and pets. We will learn the family members and how to tell people about our families. We will look at the numbers 11-20 alongside revising 1-10. This term's phonics will be, "ou" & "u" and "è" & "é". Towards the end of the term, we will investigate Poisson D'Avril (April Fool's Day) and how it is marked in France.



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.



We will complete two further puzzle pieces from our Jigsaw Curriculum this Spring term.

The first being 'Dreams and Goals,'

In this Puzzle, the children look at examples of people who have overcome challenges to achieve success and discuss what they can learn from these stories. The children identify their own dreams and ambitions and discuss how it will feel when they achieve them. They discuss facing learning challenges and identify their own strategies for overcoming these. The children consider obstacles that might stop them from achieving their goals and how to overcome these. They reflect on their progress and successes and identify what they could do better next time.

The second puzzle piece being 'Healthy Me,' In this Puzzle, the children learn about the importance of exercise and how it helps your body to stay healthy. They also learn about their heart and lungs, what they do and how they are very important. The children discover facts about calories, fat and sugar; they discuss what each of these are and how the amount they consume can affect their health. The children learn about different types of drugs, the ones you take to make you better, as well as other drugs. The children consider things, places and people that are dangerous and link this to strategies for keeping themselves safe.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hodgins, Miss Newton and Mrs Corbin