

Year 3 Autumn Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

We are extremely proud of how well the Year 3 pupils have settled into Blue Coat and it has been a delight to get to know them.

This year, the children will have their class teacher for Maths and English during the mornings and will then rotate around the school for their afternoon lessons. They have taken this in their stride and are now already familiar with all of the staff in school which is fantastic!

The children will be set homework on Mondays and this is due to be completed by 8pm on Sunday evenings. We encourage the children to complete their homework during the week so they can relax and enjoy their weekend but we know this is not always possible. If the children encounter any problems with their homework they should come and speak to year 3 staff and we will support them.

Homework will be introduced gradually over the next few weeks and we will share updates with you via Class Dojo so you are aware of our expectations. Ultimately, the expectation is:

- 20 mins of reading per day
- 1 maths shed task (2 activities)
- 1 Spelling Shed task (4 activities)

5 green dojos are awarded for the completion of all homework.



We have begun our English lessons with a delightful book called *'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth'*. This will be our inspiration for writing a set of instructions. We will also be reading *'The Silence Seeker'* which is a moving and thought-provoking story and will provide the basis for writing a diary entry. The term will end with the children writing a detailed setting description inspired by the magical story *'Leon and The Place Between'*.

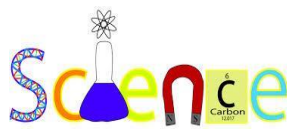
Throughout each unit of work, the children will be taught and supported in using the necessary vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. We will also have weekly spelling lessons. And handwriting.

We also have separate reading lessons during which we will be reading *'Krindlekrax'* by Phillip Ridley which is a story full of mystery and intrigue. Will the unlikely hero save the day?

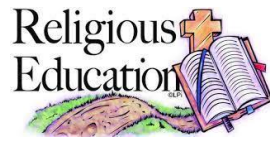


We will begin by focussing on place value as this underpins so many elements of maths. We will then put this knowledge into practice when we move on to develop our understanding of addition and subtraction. The term will end with units on multiplication and division - we will be introducing the children 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.



This term will begin with a study of the significance of The Lord's Prayer. This is followed by the main topic for the term, 'Creation/Fall'. Finally, a study of Christmas will focus on the question, 'Why do Christians feel that God is with them 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 considering the chronology of various time periods within British and world history. We will look at clues left behind by the first people who ever lived in Britain to understand what life was like for them 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. We will visit Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve.



This term, Year 3 are earning to Samba drum with Mr Abbott from Durham Music Service.



We will be focusing on our ICT skills in Computing this term, getting used to using Google Classroom as our learning platform and Google Docs, Sheets and Slides for our work. We'll be writing a blog and creating graphs amongst other exciting tasks.



This term in Art we will explore the art of Angie Lewin and work with watercolour to create a piece of artwork inspired by her.



In DT this term the children will be looking at different types of mechanisms used to make pop ups in cards and books. The children will then be designing and making their own pop up cards.



The children have started the term developing skills such as passing and throwing which they will then be able to apply to invasion games. After half term the children will complete a unit of dance where they will explore moving in time with others.



In the Autumn 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. Following this, we will move on to our second puzzle piece: Celebrating Difference. This will give us the opportunity to have discussions about families, friendships and how we can develop strategies for resolving conflict. 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 McStea, Miss Whitton and Mrs Hughes