

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. We had great fun during our team building days and really developed our teamwork and communication skills.

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:

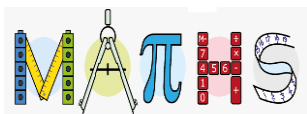
- 20 mins of reading per day
 - 1 Maths Seed lesson (to be completed over 2 weeks)
 - 1 Spelling Shed task
- 5 green dojos are awarded for the completion of all homework.



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'

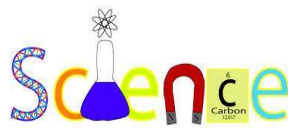
Throughout each unit of work, the children will be taught and supported in using the necessary vocabulary, grammar and punctuation. We will also have weekly spelling lessons.

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?

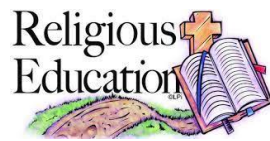


We will begin by focussing on place value as this underpins so many elements of maths. We will then put this knowledge into practice when we move on to develop our understanding of addition and subtraction. The term will end with units on multiplication and division - we will be introducing the children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



The children will commence their Music lessons in the Spring term when they will have a specialist teacher from Durham Music Service delivering their lessons.



This term, the children will explore the works of Angie Lewin, the lino print artist. They will also practise oil pastel and watercolour techniques to prepare them for creating their own piece using both mediums, inspired by Angie Lewin.



This term the children will research the work of the architect Antoni Gaudi. They will look at existing types of structures and design and make their own Gaudi inspired greenhouse.



Our main aims this term will be to gain confidence in our IT skills - especially familiarising ourselves with the IT we use in school - and learning how to make sure we're as safe as possible when using Computers and all other devices (Digital Literacy). We will make sure we know how to use all of the apps and websites we'll be using regularly in school and get as many passwords and logins as we can save! We'll also take some steps into coding through Scratch.

French

In French this term the children will be introduced to some core vocabulary and phrases. They will learn a little bit about France and different customs particularly those around Christmas time.



The children will have weekly PE lessons (3S Friday Week A and Monday Week B, 3W Monday Week A and Friday Week B). During these lessons they will practise their hand and eye coordination whilst learning different throwing and catching techniques. They will then apply these skills later in the term when they complete a netball unit. They will also begin to explore orienteering.



PSHE this year will be taught through a number of dedicated dropdown days. Further information regarding these days will be sent out to parents in due course.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Spoors, Miss Whitton, Mr Jackson and Miss Cranson.