

Year 3 Spring Term Update

A Message from the Class Teachers

Welcome to Spring Term! We have had an amazing start to the new term. The children have been working hard in all of their lessons and come into school ready to learn.

The two classes have started their new Blue Coat University Course. Class 3D are enjoying being architects and will be designing and building their very own greenhouse. Class 3S are enjoying being athletes and learning how to be great at rugby.

Homework has been a success so far. We have changed a few things in the way it is assigned and hope that you are finding it easier to support your child at home. The children all know that the ultimate goal is for homework to be an independent task, as everything they are doing has already been taught in class. A great way to help them is to find fun ways to quiz them on their spellings for the week or ask them about their times tables whilst travelling in the car.



We started the term by taking a trip to the circus and reading the beautiful book *Leon and the Place Between* by Grahame Baker-Smith. The children loved the artwork in the illustrations and using their imagination to travel to the place between. Our writing that goes along with this book includes setting descriptions, where the children have tried to improve their vocabulary and 'paint a picture' in the reader's mind.

Our next book this term is *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* by Michael Morpurgo. The greedy mayor makes a promise to the pied piper that he then breaks. We will use this traditional story to look at how authors use stories to communicate important messages. This will be our writing stimulus for a great character description, where we will build on the skills that we learned from our last piece of writing.

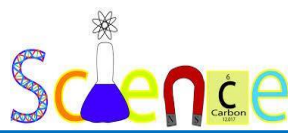
When you are reading with your child at home, help them see the use of language to describe characters.



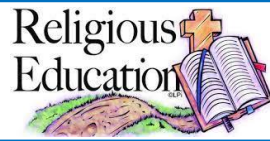
We started this term looking at multiplication and division and what they both are. Maths mastery is all about children understanding the concept, not just memorising procedures. Ask your child to explain what multiplication and division are and how many different methods they can use to solve one multiplication question. We hope that you will find that they are brilliant mathematicians. Most of spring term will be focussed on concepts of multiplication and division. In year 2, children will have started multiplication and should have memorised their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We know that this may have been interrupted so are spending some time reviewing these. In year 3, children should also know their 3, 4 and 8 times tables. We have started these and will continue to work to know them to automaticity.

We will then move onto a short unit on money where children will learn to add and subtract money using real-life examples. Children can reinforce these ideas when they are in the shops with you by helping you add together items or find out how much change they would get.

Finally, we will do some work with statistics, pictograms and bar charts, and do some work with different measures.



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.



In RE we focus on big questions for each unit. Our first unit for Spring term is Incarnation. The big question is 'What is the Trinity'? In this unit, children will learn to describe how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity in worship and in the way they live. They will make links between some Bible texts studied and the idea of God in Christianity, expressing clearly some ideas of their own about what the God of Christianity is like.

Our second unit in RE this term is Festivals. The big question is 'What are the deeper meanings of festivals?' In this unit, children will identify the main beliefs at the heart of religious festivals (i.e. at least one festival in at least two religions). They will make connections between stories, teachings, symbols and beliefs and how believers celebrate these festivals.



Why did the Ancient Egyptians build pyramids?

This will allow us to explore one of the most fascinating early civilisations that children love. We will use primary sources and develop our skills in questioning.



Year 3 will explore the world's stunning range of climate zones. We'll study the different weather, vegetation and animal life of polar, desert and tropical lands.



In Music, we are learning about singing, dynamics and scales. I know that both Year 3 classes love to sing so I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy this unit! They are also learning to understand what a beat is and how to play rhythms to a pulse in Music.



Year 3 have really enjoyed exploring Angie Lewin's artwork to create their own piece of art inspired by nature. We used oil pastels and watercolour paints to create our work. We are very excited to move on to explore different ways of representing fire and water through art.



Enthusiasm for Computing seems to radiate from these fantastic Y3 children. This term, we are going to focus on developing some of the key skills and improve confidence with frequently used programmes, apps and software. We've started to test our coding skills using Scratch too, and will continue to do so as the term goes on.



In PSHE we are learning about personal hygiene and keeping ourselves safe. We will be using the 'pants' resources produced by the NSPCC. The children have been brilliant at following the class charter they agreed to help us discuss topics during our sessions

French

The children always participate enthusiastically in French lessons. This term our topic is 'Unite essentielle' where we will learn to count to 20, say the days of the week, name colours and name countries.



In P.E the children will be participating in Net and Wall games learning to aim where they are hitting the ball and practising how to use the correct amount of power while aiming for the targets. In the second part of the term, we will be looking at invasion games trying to beat our partner by scoring more points than them.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Snowdon, Mrs Haselhurst, Mrs Kipling, Mr Jackson and Mr Elliot