



Year 3 Spring Term Newsletter

Welcome to term two. I hope you had a fantastic Christmas holiday and the children are ready for another action-packed term.

This half term, our value is GOD'S LOVE. After half term our value will be HOPE.

English

English lessons will centre around using high quality texts which enable children to learn about and use literary devices. We will also focus on using grammar and punctuation. There will be opportunities for children to explore key concepts through drama.

We expect all children to read regularly at home and ask that yellow reading diaries 'live' in book bags so they can be accessed at school and at home. Please do ensure these are signed regularly by you.

Homework

As a reminder, homework will be handed out every Friday and must be handed back in by the following Wednesday. It is important it comes in by Wednesday so we have a chance to reward children for their hard work, identify weaknesses and stick in homework. If your child is unable to complete the homework one week for any reason, please let me know.

PPA

On Friday I have my weekly non-contact time. During the afternoon, the children will have an Art, PSHE, French or Computing session led by our Higher Level Teaching Assistant - Mrs Lane.

Maths

We will begin our work in Maths this term by consolidating the children's knowledge of place value, using this to add and subtract numbers. The children will learn different methods for addition and subtraction, leading to more formal methods which they will need further up the school. We will begin by consolidating the number line method, learning to use the partitioning method, expanded written method and then move onto the formal written column method. Rather than extending the children arithmetically, the new curriculum requires them to deepen their understanding of mathematical skills, so we will focus on applying their knowledge through word problems and asking them to explain their methods and their reasons for using them.

Throughout the year the children will continue to practise their times tables. Please practise a couple of times tables each week with your child.

Science

During the first half term our topic will be **Rocks**. This will include exploring different types of rocks and soils. We will also focus on comparative and fair testing. Our second topic for next half term will be **Forces and Magnets**.

Year 3 Gardening Reflection area

As you may recall, Year 3 have been given a gardening plot in our reflection garden which was growing a variety of herbs. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, it was accidentally stripped bare at the end of last term. Therefore, I am hoping, once the weather brightens up later this term that we replant herbs and other vegetables or flowers so the children will have the opportunity to design and choose how the plants are arranged. We would really love for you to donate any herbs, vegetables, flowers or grasses, gardening spades, forks, secateurs or gloves which you may have spare, would like to purchase for our class or donate some cash. Please don't feel obliged, but it would be lovely to have equipment which the children can use which we can begin to put in place next half term when the weather is warmer.

Expressive Arts

We will begin the year with a focus on developing the children's printing and collage skills. This will include making their own printing blocks, exploration of different resources and contrasts of colour. Music this term will focus on pitch, including beginning to learn about the basics of pitch notation. In French, we will be learning to identify different parts of the body.

Philosophy and PSHE

We encourage our children to listen and respond with thoughtfulness and respect. We will continue to teach 'Philosophy for Children' to encourage children to foster critical and deeper thinking. This term will focus on rule of law as a British citizen and exploring the positives of being different in society.

P.E.

Continuing on from last term, on Tuesday afternoons the children will have P.E with Mr Smith and myself. Please ensure your child has the correct P.E kit on this day: navy blue shorts/tracksuit bottoms, navy blue/yellow T-shirts and trainers or football boots (no plimsoles). If girls wear tights into school, please make sure there is a spare pair of socks in their P.E. bag. Please make sure all items of your child's P.E kit are named. If girls wear earrings, adults cannot take these out for safety reasons, so please make sure they can take them out in school themselves, or make sure they avoid wearing earrings that day. Also, girl's hair should be tied up. P.E. kits should be brought to school on Monday and will be sent home on Friday for washing. On a Friday morning, children have swimming lessons. For this, children need a towel, swimming costume and swimming cap of any colour. Goggles are optional. If you would like to provide your child with a snack, they are often pleased to have this after swimming. P.E is a very important part of the curriculum and it is vital that the children bring in full kit. If your child is unable to attend a P.E lesson due to injury or illness, please write a note to let us know.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Our main topic focus will be History. The topic is 'The Ancient Shang Dynasty of China'. We will be studying different aspects of their culture, including writing, food, trade and entertainment. In Geography, we will be learning about climate, rivers, settlements and trade links.

R.E.

This will continue to be taught across the school on Wednesday afternoons. This half-term the children will be learning about Christianity. This will focus on the Old Testament. After half term, we will be thinking about the Ten Commandments.

Stationery equipment

Please make sure that your child has at least one lead pencil, one red pencil (for feedback to marking), a 30cm ruler, rubber, sharpener and whiteboard pen (we will provide the whiteboards). Optional stationery may include scissors and it would be so helpful if you could provide your child with a named, plain white glue stick.

And finally...

If you have any quick questions or concerns please feel free to catch me in the playground at the end of the day. If you would like to speak with me more privately, please see me or contact the school office to arrange an appointment. Please do keep an eye on the school website which lists all the key dates for the Spring term.

Here's to another fantastic term with your wonderful children!

Miss Cook
Year 3 Class Teacher

