

Class 3 Newsletter

Spring Term 2023

Welcome to Class 3's welcome newsletter for the Spring Term.

We already know that the children are all hard workers and we are excited to continue to help them build on their successes as we head into the Spring Term.

Year 5 and 6 is a great opportunity for children to take ownership of their learning. We know that you will continue to encourage your children to take increasing responsibility for their learning both at school and home. Working as a team we can ensure that your child reaches their full potential as they prepare for the next steps in their education.

Home/School Folders- it is essential that children bring their Home/School folders into school each day. This is so that children have their Reading Records in school each day but is also good practice for taking ownership of their resources for when they go to secondary school.

Reading in Class 3 - It is important that any reading at home is documented in your child's Reading Record. Children are encouraged to fill this in themselves in Class 3 to take ownership on what they are reading. Children in Class 3 will need to record what has happened in the section of text they have read. It is also essential that as parents/carers you continue to listen to your child read as often as possible so that they can make the most progress in their reading. **Remember- whilst reading it's not just about being able to decode the words to read fluently, in Class 3 it is essential that children are questioned about the key reading VIPERS skills. Question prompts can be found in your child's Reading Record.**

We celebrate reading within school and as such reward reading at home. I also love reading and it is always a pleasure to see which books children in Class 3 are reading so that I can make some new purchases!

Children in Class 3 are responsible for changing their own Reading books when needed.

Homework-

Homework will be issued on a Friday to be returned the following Thursday.

Spellings will be checked on a Friday.

PE-

Wednesday and Fridays.

PE kit can stay in school. Children will bring this home on a Friday to wash.

As always, if you have any questions or would like to know any more about what Class 3 will be learning please do not hesitate to contact me 😊

What will Class 3 be learning this term?

Literacy

Throughout the term Class 3 will be exposed to a variety of high-quality texts across the 3 genres: Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry as well as Picture Books, video clips and songs as part of their whole class reading.

In our first text, *Malamander*, we will write a setting description, thank you letter and new chapter of a novel, we will meet Herbert Lemon, Lost-and-Founder at the Grand Nautilus Hotel, knows that returning lost things to their rightful owners is not easy – especially when the lost thing is not a thing at all, but a girl. No one knows what happened to Violet Parma's parents twelve years ago, and when she engages Herbie to help her find them, the pair discover that their disappearance might have something to do with the legendary sea-monster, the Malamander. Eerie-on-Sea has always been a mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories seem to wash up. And it just got stranger...



We will then read *Rainplayer*- a beautifully illustrated text. The ancient Maya civilization is the setting for this original tale, inspired by the Maya belief that fate is divinely decreed and cannot be changed. When a terrible drought is predicted, a young ball player challenges the rain god to a game of pok-a-tok, hoping to win the rain and save his people. Using the text as inspiration, we will write instructions, create a poster, write a diary and hold a debate.



After half-term we will read *The Explorer* to write an Adventure story and create a Non-Chronological Report. From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer, of making history and of reading his name amongst the lists of great discoveries. If only he could land and look about him. As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small.

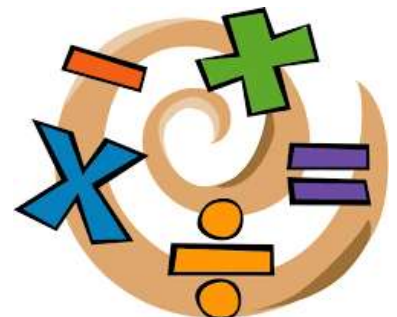


Except, it seems, someone has been there before them...

Finally, we will explore performance poetry, preparing poems and plays to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone and volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience.

Numeracy

In maths, we will begin by mastering multiplication and division techniques before moving onto Fractions. These elements of maths are crucial to the Year 5/6 curriculum. We will also explore percentages, decimals, perimeter and area and statistics. As always, we will follow a mastery approach. We will continue to work on our Arithmetic skills.



Science

In Science our first topic is Forces and Magnets. We will answer the following question; Are there different types of Forces? During this unit of work, children will consolidate and extend their knowledge of forces by naming individual forces (e.g. gravity, friction, upthrust). They will extend their knowledge of frictional forces (air resistance and water resistance) and plan fair test investigations to discover which shoe has the greatest friction and which shapes offer the most water resistance. They will learn how forces can be helpful and unhelpful in various

scenarios and identify the forces involved in each scenario. They will learn what a mechanism is and how pulleys, levers and gears are used to allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.

After half term, we will explore Light. During this unit of work, children will consolidate previous learning by exploring the way that light behaves, including light sources, reflection and shadows. Pupils will make predictions and investigate the relationship between light sources, objects and shadows and understand how the eye works.

Children will extend their experience of light by looking at rainbows, prisms and bending light in water (although they don't need to explain why these phenomena occur at this stage).

RE

In RE this term will answer the following questions:

What do Christians believe about God?

Easter Unit: Why is the Last Supper so important to Christians?

RE will be taught by Miss Gillard.

History

In History this term we will explore the question: What similarities and differences are there between the Maya civilisation and England from the 8th to the 10th century?

This will build on the work we completed in the Autumn Term on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.

The first lessons explore who the Maya people were, when and where in the world they lived and the reasons why they were so successful, particularly in the Classic period. The lessons then move on to discovering how we know about the Maya people, their beliefs and the hierarchy system that was in place in society and the important inventions that they made, especially in farming. The unit finishes with a comparison between the Ancient Maya Civilisation and Anglo-Saxon Britain, with a focus on the similarities and differences between the Maya City States and the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms; drawing on the archaeological evidence available to us.

Geography

As Geographers we will be exploring a unit on Fantastic Forests before answering the question: why are they so important?

PHSE

Children will explore the question: How can friends communicate safely?

DT

Structures- Playgrounds

Research existing playground equipment and their different forms, before designing and developing a range of apparatus to meet a list of specified design criteria.

Art

Drawing- Making my voice heard

Exploring art with a message, children look at the famous 'Guernica' by Picasso and the confronting works of Käthe Kollwitz. They develop their drawings to incorporate new surfaces, a range of techniques and demonstrate an emerging personal style.

Throughout the unit will use our sketchbooks to develop our Art techniques.

PE

Children will take part in Netball with our coach from Staindrop Academy. They will then compete in an inter-school competition at the end of the unit.

Mr Leinster will teach PE on a Friday teaching Dance, Athletics and Gymnastics throughout the term.

French

French will be taught by Miss Gillard. The children will explore two units:

Healthy Eating- Going to the Market

Clothes

Computing

As part of our Computer Science work children will use Kodu to create a rainforest game.

They will create a radio station podcast and will also learn about the importance of internet Safety during Safer Internet Day, being internet safety ambassadors for the school.

Extra-curricular activities

To keep up to date with what Class 3 have been learning check out our Facebook page or look for updates in the newsletter.

Football club will run on a Wednesday.

Speak to Alison in the school office to book your child in 😊