



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! We hope you have all had a restful summer and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

English

In English this term the children will be learning about a range of writing genres through the study of different Roald Dahl and non-fiction rainforest texts. In addition to English lessons, the children will have weekly spelling, grammar, handwriting lessons and guided reading sessions.

Maths

In mathematics lessons this term the children will be focusing on number skills and operations; number and place value; addition and subtraction; multiplication and division. There will be a big emphasis on learning number facts and times tables (more information to follow on this) and, in addition to maths lessons, the children will have weekly times table tests and sessions where they will practise mental maths and arithmetic skills.

Physical Education

Every Friday afternoon NS Sport will be teaching the children multi-skills, basketball, football and Uni-hockey. The children should come to school dressed in their PE kits (**school uniform kits only please**) and, as their session is during the afternoon, they will not be required to change after the session and can go straight home in them. Each class also has an additional timetabled PE lesson each week, on a Wednesday morning, which is going to be used largely for swimming lessons. This term, all three classes will be having 10 weeks of swimming lessons, commencing **Wednesday 13th September**. You will receive further information concerning the arrangements for these lessons and the kit required. The first week back (this week) the children will need to bring in a PE kit for an indoor PE lesson.

Science

'Animals including Humans' is our first science topic where the children will learn about nutrition, the skeletal system, and muscles. Our second science topic will be 'Forces and Magnets' where the children will investigate different forces including gravity, friction and magnetic forces.

Computing

Through the year, we constantly refresh our knowledge and skills in e-safety. The children will learn about 'fake news', privacy settings, ways to deal with upsetting online content and protecting our personal information on social media. This term our areas of learning are:

Unit 1 Networks and the Internet: Before half-term, children will learn about networks and the Internet. The children will identify components and explore how information is shared by exploring examples of real-world networks including the Internet.

Unit 2 Programming: Scratch After half-term, the children will learn to program using Scratch. We will learn to use repetition or 'loops' and program an animation, a story and a game.

Humanities

In Geography during the first half-term, the children will be studying the countries and counties of the UK. They will consider physical and human features of the landscape and develop an understanding of land use and farming throughout the UK. In the latter half of the term, they will further their knowledge of the world atlas and learn about different biomes and vegetation belts and the locations, climatic and physical features of tropical rainforests.

Art

In art this term the children will be investigating a range of media and techniques. They will be developing their sketching skills and using watercolours and pastels whilst studying the work of David Hockney and Giuseppe Archimboldo along with producing rainforest related artwork.

DT (Design Technology)

We hope to offer (through parental volunteers and support) the children the opportunity to cook in small groups this term. If you are able to help in this activity please advise either your class teacher or class representatives. We will be asking for a small contribution from each child to cover the cost of ingredients.

RE (Religious Education)

In RE this term the children are studying Christianity through our topic of 'What is the meaning of Christmas for Christians?'

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)

Thinking hats, role play and circle time help us to explore the feelings and ideas around 'Being Me in my World'. This will help with the initial transition into Key Stage 2 and will provide an opportunity to ease any concerns the children might have. Towards the end of the Autumn Term we will cover 'Celebrating Differences', which includes aspects of the compulsory 'Relationships and Health Education' curriculum.

French

The children will learn basic words and phrases to talk about themselves. In this term, the children will learn to count to twenty, say whether they have a pet and say how old they are. They will develop their accents and understanding and focus heavily on speaking and listening; this will be taught by a specialist teacher, Madame Parke.

Music

In Music lessons this year, the children will be taught music by specialist teacher, Miss Imogen Ridge. As well as weekly singing assemblies and regular singing in class, the children will listen to, perform and explore a wide range of music. This term in year 3, the children will be exploring descriptive sounds and rhythmic patterns.

Thinking Schools

The children will continue to use tools from their 'Thinking School' toolkit, including thinking maps, thinking hats and habits of mind. The 'Thinking School' methodologies aim to equip children with the thinking skills needed to effectively tackle problems across and beyond the curriculum, both at school and in the future, through deep and critical thinking.

Homework

Homework this year will focus primarily on reading activities, spellings, maths skills and number facts/times tables practice. Homework and spellings will be set each Thursday and the children will have a week to complete their homework and practise their spellings, ready to be tested the following Thursday. Maths homework will typically involve practising number facts using the 'Hit the Button' website or 'Times Tables Rockstars' (the children will use the Numbots user IDs issued to them to access this- you will receive a letter reminding you of these too, or completing a short activity on 'MyMaths' (further information will follow when we set our first homework on this). We ask the children to read for 15 minutes at home on a daily basis and record this in their reading diaries. We also ask that parents continue to read with their child regularly and check and sign their diaries at least once each week. We use an online platform, Renaissance Learning, to track children's reading and comprehension progress and each week they will be given the opportunity to complete Accelerated Reader comprehension quizzes based on books read. You will learn more about this platform at our curriculum evening and further information will also be sent to parents directly.

Parent Help:

If you are able to assist with activities such as reading, cooking and walking to swimming, please can you advise your class teacher or class representative.

Dates for the diary:

Roald Dahl's Birthday – On **Tuesday 12th September** we will be celebrating Roald Dahl's birthday. To mark the day, **we are inviting the children to come to school dressed as a character from one of his books**. Our work that day will be based on a Dahl text and the children will watch a film based on one of his most popular books in the afternoon.

Curriculum Evening – We are delighted to be able to invite you to come along to the school on **Thursday 14th September at 7pm** where there will be a short presentation in the school hall covering the Year 3 curriculum and expectations of the year group.

Trips – To enrich our Geography Topic on rainforests, we will be visiting Kew Gardens on **Monday 27th November** with a session about '**People and Plants**' – further details to follow.

Swimming – Swimming lessons begin on **Wednesday 13th September** for all classes.

We hope you find this information useful but should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us. We are looking forward to a truly enjoyable year!

Claire Crichton, Emily Goodwin, Amy Spikereit and Emily Chaplin
Year 3 Class Teachers.