

Year Three Newsletter

9 September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 3 and the Juniors! We are sure that, like us, you are delighted that your children have finally been able to return to school, and are looking forward to the year ahead. We aim to make the return to the routine of school life (and the transition from the Infants to the Juniors) as easy as possible for your children. We will begin to teach them a range of strategies which will help them to become independent learners.

Our topic for this term is "Our Planet", focusing on volcanoes and earthquakes. Complementing our Topic, our science work this half term is "The Rock Cycle". Alongside our topic and science work we will be covering the usual Literacy and Numeracy curriculum for Year 3, after first addressing any gaps in knowledge that have been caused by the prolonged lockdown. Please see the attached Topic Web for further details.

Homework: The Junior staff are hoping to move to an electronic method of setting, completing and marking homework, similar to the "Seesaw" platform used during the lockdown. Once this is finalised, we will give you further details. I believe that there will also be some form of alternative paper homework for those families that require it.

Things to remember:

Book bags need to come in to school every day. Children should place their yellow reading records and reading books in the pouch on the back of their chair, along with their spelling book, every day. If they require a new book, their book will be changed as appropriate by a member of staff.

Sadly, library visits cannot take place at present; however Mrs King is organising a selection of appropriate library books, to be kept in each class, for the children in that class to borrow.

Swimming lessons have regrettably had to be cancelled for this academic year. However, we envisage the current Year Three children being able to have swimming lessons in the next academic year instead, i.e. when they are in Year Four.

PE will take place on a **Wednesday afternoon and a Thursday morning**. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing outdoor PE kit those days. They will not need to bring their uniform to change into, because they will stay in their PE kit all day, and also go home in it. Long hair needs to be tied up every day, but especially for PE. Earrings need to be removed **at home** on PE days, because staff are not allowed to remove them.

Spellings:

These are given out on a **Monday (commencing 14.9.20)** and practised daily at school, with a spelling test every **Thursday**. Your child will bring home their new spellings every Monday so that you can support them to practise at home (on scrap paper or in a separate book, **not** in their spelling record book). This spelling record book must be returned to school every day, as your child will need to refer to it daily.

Please practise **times tables** with your child. We will recap x2, x10 and x5, and then start to learn x3 (and later the 4 and 8 times tables). We will be having regular times table tests in Class 3, normally on a Friday. The children will be told beforehand what they need to practise. Times tables tests include a mixture of your child's current times table, previous tables learned, and inverse questions. For example, a child who has learned their 2, 10 and 5 times tables and is now on their threes could be asked the following questions: 2×3 , 5×8 , 7×10 , $60 \div 10$, three fours. The tests build gradually in difficulty as children's confidence increases.

A **reading book** will soon be given to your child. We would ask that you take the time to listen to your child read at least three times a week (even if they can read unaided) and record and sign this in their Reading Record. It is important to question your child's understanding of what they have read after every session, and it would be helpful if you could include only constructive comments in your child's Reading Record. Concerns about your child's reading should be shared with me privately via email.

The Year Three team are ready to support your child in settling back into school life in whatever ways we can, and would like to thank you for the support you have already shown us. We hope that the measures we have put in place this year enable your children to flourish safely, but please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Best wishes from

Mrs Workman (Class Teacher), Mrs Simons and Mrs Giles (Teaching Assistants)

