



RHODES AVENUE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 3

Autumn Term 2016

Curriculum News letter (Termly Class Letter)

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Issue 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all enjoyed your summer break and that you are fully refreshed for the new school year! Below is some information relating to the learning and activities that we have planned for your child.

In **English**, there will be a strong cross-curricular link with our topic 'Stone Age to Iron Age'. We will begin using a key text called 'Stone Age Boy' to support our ideas for writing. Within this term we will cover different genres including story writing, recounts and non-chronological reports. By the end of the first half term, we will be writing our own report about what life was like during the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age, based on what we have read and learnt. Please encourage your child to read about this topic at home or at the library. Handwriting and key word spellings are also important in this first term, and children will be receiving these to practise regularly at home. Our speaking and listening focus for the term will be based on encouraging children to talk and listen confidently in different situations. They will learn to develop and explain their ideas giving reasons and show they have listened carefully by asking relevant questions. It is expected that children will participate fully in paired and group discussions. Our grammar focus for the term will be on learning to understand when to use different forms of punctuation to enhance writing, understanding different word classes (nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives) and sustaining writing in the same tense.

In **Maths** the children will begin by consolidating and building on their understanding of place value in numbers up to and beyond 1000. They will compare and order numbers up to 1000 and learn to read and write these numbers in numerals and in words. They will go on to practise methods of addition and subtraction, multiplication and division and later, will be applying their problem solving skills to 'real life' problems. It is expected that children will practise their times table facts and quick recall of number facts at home as well as at school, in order to consolidate their learning and improve their understanding of number.

In **Science** our topic is Light. Children will learn to recognise sources of light. We will be investigating shadows and using mirrors to learn how light reflects on surfaces.

This half term, our topic is 'Stone Age to Iron Age'. Our topic has a history focus. After half term our topic will be 'Learning from others'.

In **History**, the children will learn to describe events and periods linked to The Stone Age and The Iron Age. They will appreciate what life would have been like for early Brits, thinking about their social setting, how they communicated, what they ate and how they hunted. Children will study how archaeologists help us to understand more about what happened in the past. They will describe events from the past using dates when things happened, using the words 'ancient' 'century' and 'prehistory'. They will learn to use a timeline within a specific time in history to set out the order things may have happened and will use their mathematical knowledge to work out how long ago events would have happened. Through research, children will identify similarities and differences between given periods in history.

In **Religious Education** children will discuss similarities and differences for religious people. They will learn to describe what a believer might learn from different religious stories. We will compare some of the things that influence us and things that influence others. In Year 3 the focus will be on Christianity, with links to other religions. Throughout Key Stage 2, children will have the opportunity to focus on various religions in depth.

In **PE** our focus for this half term will be gymnastics and ball and invasion games (weather permitting); see below for details relating to each class. The children will be learning how to plan and show a sequence of movements, ensuring that they have contrast in their sequences and their movements are controlled. They will have to think of more than one way to create a sequence which follows a set of 'rules', working on their own as well as with a partner to create a sequence.

It is essential that children have their PE kits in school everyday. This includes a Rhodes Avenue T-shirt (available from the school office), navy shorts, jogging bottoms, a warm top, spare socks and appropriate footwear. Children will be asked to remove or cover earrings before taking part in their PE session.

#### **PE Days:**

3WJ – Monday

3RM – Tuesday and Wednesday

3JM – Tuesday and Wednesday

In **Music** children will be learning to sing with others in groups, focusing on singing in tune with expression. They will learn to use musical words to describe what they like and dislike. Children will become more confident in identifying the elements of a musical composition.

In **Art** children will be designing cave paintings, linking to our topic. Children will also explore tone, line, pattern and colour. In **Design and Technology** children will be investigating, designing and making structures. They will learn about strengthening sheet materials in order to make strong shell structures for a variety of packages or other objects. As part of this unit of work, the children will be asked to bring any recyclable food or retail packages to school for their investigation. Your co-operation with this is appreciated.

In **French** children will be introduced to the vowel sounds and basic conversational dialogue. We encourage the children to bring in the same soft toy each Thursday, in the aim that children 'speak' to this soft toy at home, to develop their confidence in speaking French.

Our **PSHE** focus for this term will be about developing a growth mindset. Children will reflect on their strengths and targets for the upcoming year. Together, we have created class rules, which we will be referring to throughout the year.

## **Reading**

Reading sessions take place every morning so punctuality is vital. Children will read a 'Guided Reading' book in their group once a week during the daily reading session. The book will be sent home with children and is required to be brought back daily. Please only read up to the chapter/section specified by the teacher as the children will complete a carousel of activities throughout the week in the early morning session, including predictions, further reading of the text and a reading task associated with the book. The children will also take home books of their choice from the classroom or library to read with you. These are free choice books, so children may need assistance in reading them. Your child will bring home a reading record book with comments from us. We encourage you to make a comment at least once a week, about your child's reading progress at home in order to ensure that a good dialogue is established. Children must read for at least ten minutes a day at home and record the pages they have read. They are allowed to make their own small comment about what they think of the book so far. There is also a space for adults to record tricky words for children to practise. In the middle of this new reading record, you will find tips to help you support your child further with reading and spelling at home.

## **Book Bags**

We would like the children to bring in their yellow reading book bags to and from school every day of the week and not just on their reading days, so that they have their chosen book readily available for reading sessions. This routine will also help to eliminate the occurrence of book bags being forgotten on the children's guided reading days.

## **Home Learning**

As well as their spellings the children will receive weekly tasks for English as well as a piece of Maths homework. Maths homework will be handed out every Wednesday and is due back on Friday where we will mark it together in class. The homework will be focused on children consolidating that week's learning. English will be handed out every Friday and is due back by Monday where we will mark it together in class. This enables any misconceptions to be addressed before the next piece of homework is set.

Homework at Rhodes Avenue provides children with the opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning. The aim of homework is to develop pupil independence, resilience and resourcefulness. They should be able to complete their homework with minimal adult support however if your child does struggle with the homework provided please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher.

## **Spelling/Handwriting**

The children will be taught cursive writing this year. Spellings will be brought home every week and after the spelling homework, the children will be tested the following week. The spellings will be based upon a spelling rule each week.

## **Education visits**

Educational visits are an important aspect of the Rhodes Avenue Curriculum. School visits and trips provide the opportunity to enrich learning outside of the classroom and inspire learning back at school.

We aim to take the children on as many school trips as possible however we recognise this can become costly. We have decided this year to set a maximum limit on the amount we ask you to pay for trips over the whole year to £30. The school will make every effort to keep the cost of the educational visits to a minimal by using public transport or by visiting free exhibitions.

## **Healthy Schools**

As part of school policy and our commitment to being a Healthy School, children may bring a playtime snack of fresh fruit and/or vegetables. Water will always be available during the school day, however we are happy for you to bring into school a bottle of water clearly labelled. On Fridays, children are allowed to bring a small 'treat snack' e.g. cereal bar, Yoyo's, popcorn etc. (Please remember not to bring anything containing nuts).

### **Important Autumn term dates for your diaries:**

3RM Class Assembly	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October
Half term	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October until Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October
Back to school	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October
Educational Visit – Celtic Harmony Camp (tbc)	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November
Individual Photographs	8 <sup>th</sup> November
Parents' evenings	16th and 17th November
Christmas Productions	7 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> December
End of term	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2016
Inset Day	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2017
Back to school	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017

### **Other Information**

#### **Year 3 Choir**

If your child would like to join the Year 3 choir, they are required to attend weekly rehearsals on Mondays at 12:15 in Silverbirch classroom with Ms Watson and Ms McGahon. This is a very exciting opportunity for children to sing and perform in front of others at our school. Please remind children that once they join the choir, they are expected to dedicate their time to it and show their commitment on a weekly basis.

#### **Groupings**

In Year 3 we vary our grouping and seating arrangements, (including mixed ability and friendship groups) and the children are sometimes required to work with a partner. The children are often grouped according to ability for Reading, English and Maths however these are not fixed groups. They may be changed and adapted regularly, according to children's individual needs in different areas of the curriculum.

#### **Resources**

If you have books, artefacts or other useful resources that we might use during our topics please do send them in (labelled with your child's name and class).

#### **Dropping off and Collecting Children**

Please note that in the juniors the children must assemble in the playground by 8:55 am each day, when the bell is rung for them to line up. They will then be brought to the classroom by their class teacher and will deposit their own bags/coats in their lockers or in their trays. We appreciate your continued co-operation in this matter.

In the afternoon, if a child has not been collected by 3.45pm from the playground, the class teacher will take them to the office and parents will be called.

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a mutually convenient time. We looking forward to working with you,

Demi Jeffels, Jette Rayner, Nina Watson and Rebecca McFetridge

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