



RHODES AVENUE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 3

Autumn Term 2018

Curriculum News letter (Termly Class Letter)

Class Teachers: Sam Perkins, Marie-Therese Stoddart, Natasha Morgan & Dan Norman

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Year 3, 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 important, and the children will be covering these in class. 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 to sustain writing in the correct tense and person.

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. By the end of year 3 the expectation is to learn the 3, 4, and 8 times tables in addition to the 2, 5, and 10 times tables, which they should already know.

In **Science** our first topic is Light. This half term 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 our early ancestors, 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 a timeline, using the words 'ancient', 'century' and 'prehistory'. Through research, children will identify similarities and differences between given periods in history.

In **Religious Education** children will discuss similarities and differences between religious people. They will learn to describe what a believer might learn from different religious stories. We will compare what influences us and 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, ball and invasion games (weather permitting); see below for details relating to each class. Now the children are in year 3 they have been put into houses, and will be competing in our school Intra competitions. This half term's Intra Competition will be gymnastics. 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:

3MS – Wednesday and Thursday

3SP – Monday and Thursday

3DN – Tuesday and Friday

In **Music** children will be learning to sing with others in groups, focusing on singing in tune with expression. They will learn to use the correct terminology to describe the structure of compositions, and will also discuss what they like and dislike. A very exciting new addition for Year 3 this year will be specialised Ukulele lessons with Dan Shaffran. These will be done on a termly rotation.

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 Stone Age tool pouches.

In **French** children will be introduced to the basic conversational dialogue. We encourage the children to share what they have learnt at school when they return home, to develop their confidence in speaking French.

Our **SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural)** 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 comprehension sessions take place four times a week. The children will also take home books of their choice from the library to read. These are free choice books, so although the children are encouraged to choose a book they can read independently they may occasionally assistance. 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. Please continue to ask your children reading comprehension questions about what they have read.

Book Bags

We would like the children to bring in their yellow reading book bags on their class library day so that they can change their book if necessary and any comments can be answered.

The Year 3 Library day is Thursday.

Home Learning

Home learning this year will aim to inform and provide opportunities to go over learning we are doing at school in the home environment. More details on this and the range of projects will be sent home in a separate letter.

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:

Half term	w/c 22nd October 2018
Back to school	Tuesday 30 th October 2018
Educational Visit – Chiltern Open Air Museum	Monday 17 th September 2018 – Leaving school at 8.45am returning at 4pm
Individual Photographs	Tuesday 6 th November 2018
Parents' evenings	TBC
Christmas Productions	TBC
End of term	Friday 21 st December 2018
Back to school	Monday 7 th January 2019

Other Information

Year 3 Choir

If your child would like to join the Year 3 choir, they are required to attend weekly rehearsals on Tuesday at 12:45 with Ms McGahon and; these will start in week 3. 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.

In the afternoon the children will be collected at the door, if a child has not been collected at the classroom door by 3.45pm, 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,

Sam Perkins, Marie Therese-Stoddart, Natasha Morgan & Dan Norman

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