



Year 3 Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to all parents and carers of children in Year 3; I hope you all had a lovely summer. We are now at the end of our first week back; the children have settled into their new class, new year group and new Key Stage really well and it has been my pleasure to begin to get to know your children. We are joined this year by Mrs. Stiles, who is our Teaching Assistant and who will be supporting in class.

We will be studying lots of interesting and exciting topics this year, and I am looking forward to what lies ahead of us.

Science

Our Science unit this term is 'Rocks and Soils'. During our Science lessons, we will undertake a variety of activities including hands-on, practical activities, fair tests and scientific enquiries. I will also be introducing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenges and activities into our lessons in order to develop and foster perseverance, independence and problem solving skills.

Our 'Rocks and Soils' unit also links closely with our Topic for this term.



Topic

Our Topic this term is 'Digging Up The Past'. During it, we will mainly be learning about the Stone Age. English will be taught through texts that will help broaden your child's vocabulary, deepen their understanding, and provide a context for their own work. We will be reading 'Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age', 'The Pebble in my Pocket' and 'Jemmy Button'. Our Art lessons will involve focussing on cave painting and paint mixing. In History, we will find out when the Stone Age was and what life in the Stone Age was like. In Geography, we will learn about soil and rock formation, and rivers and coasts.



P.E.

Your child will have P.E. every Monday morning, which will be taught by myself and supported by Mrs. Stiles. Please ensure your child brings appropriate kit to school on a Monday and takes it home for washing on a Friday.

Your child's P.E. kit should consist of:

- plain black shorts and tracksuit bottoms.
- a plain T-shirt in your child's House colour:
 - Auckland: green
 - Brancepeth: blue
 - Durham: yellow
 - Raby: red.
- a change of footwear.

All watches and earrings are to be removed for the session. Your support and co-operation with this is very much appreciated.



Outdoor Learning

This year, every class will continue to have one whole term of Outdoor Learning with 'Real Adventure through Sport'. So, for the whole of the autumn term, Year 3 will participate in various outdoor activities on a Tuesday.

The children have been split into 3 groups. Group A will go out for a full day one week, then Group B the second week and finally Group C in the third week. We will continue rotating groups like this across the autumn term so that each group will go out for 4 full days, each time to a different location and participate in outdoor and adventurous sporting activities.



Home Learning Tasks

Reading

At the end of last year, all children in school were given a book from our reading scheme (Collins Big Cat) so that their book band level matched their academic level. Your child will continue at the level that was given to them. For those children who may have been rebanded onto a lower level, they are also welcome to take home a free-reading chapter book alongside their banded reading book. Your child will bring their reading book home every night. I ask that you sign their Reading Record at least three times a week, and that your child returns their reading book to school every day so that I can monitor their progress.

Reading



Spellings

This year, we are following the No Nonsense Spellings programme. Your child will receive 10 words on a Monday to practise at home in preparation for a spelling test on Friday of that week. This year, we are asking that your child writes a sentence for each word to help them learn the word and to show that they know what the word means.

This week, we have completed a baseline spellings assessment using the Year 3 National Curriculum words. I have highlighted the words your child got correct on a sheet which is stuck in their homework book. The assessment will be repeated at Christmas, Easter and just before summer so that you can see which words your child knows and which words they still need to learn how to spell.

We appreciate your support and co-operation with home-school learning.

Fruit

Unfortunately, Key Stage 2 do not receive a snack of fruit at playtimes like Key Stage 1 do. However, your child is very welcome to bring their own fruit in from home as a snack to eat during morning playtime.



School Dinners

Now that your child is in Key Stage 2, if they receive a school dinner, it must be paid for. The cost of these dinners is £2.05 per day, so £10.25 for the week. However, you could be eligible for a free school meal if you meet the criteria. If you need any further information about this, please ask at the office.



Water bottles

Your child is welcome to bring a bottle of still, unflavoured drinking water with them in to class. I would strongly recommend that your child does bring a water bottle into school with them as our classroom gets very hot, especially in the afternoons, and having a bottle of water will help to cool your child down and hydrate them. Your child's bottle must be labelled with their name and should be taken home every night for washing and replenishing.

If your child brings a packed lunch to school for dinner, please ensure that they bring a drink for lunch and a water bottle for class.

Remember to keep checking our school website (<http://www.kingstreet.eschools.co.uk/>) which will keep you up to date with all the latest information. If you have the means to, please download the app onto your phone so that you have all our latest news and information at your fingertips!

And finally, just a reminder that we are holding a 'Meet the Teacher' night next Wednesday where you are invited to come and meet myself and Mrs. Stiles, and find out a little bit more about life in Year 3. I look forward to meeting as many of you there as possible.

Kind regards,
Miss Wigham.