

# Year 3 Autumn Newsletter

A very big 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 and the children have settled into their new class, new year group and new Key Stage well and it has been my pleasure to begin to get to know your children. We are joined this year by Miss Brown who will support our class across the week and Mr. Swift who will support on a Thursday.

We will be studying lots of interesting and exciting topics this year, and I am looking forward to what lies ahead of us as we begin our Key Stage 2 journey ...

## Our Curriculum

### Maths:

- Time
- Place Value
- Addition subtraction (formal written methods)
- Shape

### English:

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 read: 'Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age', 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' and 'The Wild Way Home'.

Our writing genres include:

- Instructions
- Non-chronological texts
- Poetry: simple rhyme
- Narrative: character description using dialogue

### Geography:

- Settlements: early settlements

### Art:

- Drawing and Sketching with a focus on local artist, Matthew Ellwood

### D.&T.:

- Mechanical systems: levers and linkages

### French:

- Greetings, numbers to 10, colours, classroom commands, calendar, celebrations

### P.E.:

- Fundamentals / Hockey / Gymnastics

### Computing:

- Computer systems and networks
- Creating media: desktop publishing

### Music:

- Singing / Writing music down
- African drumming

### R.E.:

In Year 3, we study the religion of Hinduism. This term, our focus is on belief and authority in Hinduism.

### PSHE:

Relationships:

- families, friendships and safe relationships
- keeping safe

Your child will have two P.E. lessons a week: one on a Thursday and one on a Friday.

Please ensure that your child brings their P.E. kit to school on a Monday and I will ensure they take 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 are very much appreciated.

## Topic: History

Our topic for the Autumn term is 'The Stone Age'. During our topic, we will find out when the Stone Age was, what life in the Stone Age was like and how our country changed during this time.



## Science

Our Science unit this term is 'Rocks and Soils'. We will find out how the three different types of rocks are formed, how fossils are formed, about the life and work of the paleontologist Mary Anning, how soil is formed and the different types of soils. During our Science lessons, we will undertake a variety of activities including hands-on, practical activities, fair tests and scientific enquiries. Our 'Rocks and Soils' unit also links closely with our 'Stone Age' topic this term.



# Reading

One of the most important things that you can do to support your child, is to Read with them regularly. You can listen to your child read or even share the reading with them. From Monday, your child will start to bring home their reading book and Reading Record. 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 listen to readers and monitor their reading progress.

Reading



# 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 £2.95 per day, so £14.75 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 water with them in to class. I would 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. Please label your child's bottle with their name and I will ensure that bottles are taken home for washing and replenishing. If your child has a packed lunch for dinner, please ensure that they bring a drink for lunch and a water bottle for class.



Children should come to school wearing: black or grey trousers / shorts / skirts / pinafore, a white polo shirt, a blue cardigan / jumper, and plain black shoes. Please ensure your child's uniform, PE kit, coat, bag and other items are labelled with their name. During the year, children will inevitably take off their jumpers, cardigans and various other items of uniform then leave them in the classroom or on the yard. If they are labelled, it makes the process of finding and returning the right uniform to the right child much easier!

And finally, just a reminder that we are holding two 'Meet the Teacher' sessions next Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September; the first one is from 3:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and the second one is from 4:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. where you are invited to come and find out even more about life in Year 3. I look forward to meeting as many of you there as possible.

If there is anything you ever need, please don't hesitate to catch me on the yard on a morning or a night, phone the school and leave a message or email me direct on [s.wigham100@kingstreet.durham.sch.uk](mailto:s.wigham100@kingstreet.durham.sch.uk)

With many thanks and kind regards, Mrs. Heightley.