



# Year 3 Autumn Newsletter

A very big welcome to all parents and carers of children in Year 3. 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 really well and it has been my pleasure to begin to get to know your children. We are joined by Mrs. Stiles, who is our Teaching Assistant and who will be supporting in class.

Last academic year may have ended sooner than any of us would have liked it to and we have had to make a few changes to our day, our classroom and our usual routines but now that we are all back at school, I am confident that it will take us no time at all to get used to these changes.

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. on a Monday morning and a Friday 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 I will send it home on a Friday night for washing. 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.



# Home Learning Tasks

We have changed the way we set our Home Learning Tasks this year.

## Reading

Your child will bring their reading book home on a Monday night, keep it at home all week and then return it to school on a Friday. This means we can then set the book aside over the weekend and return it to the book shelves on a Monday when we will then choose a new book to take home that night for the week. If the book is only a short book, by keeping the book at home all week, your child will be able to read and re-read it, so gaining fluency and confidence. If the book is a slightly longer chapter book, they will be able to read a chapter a night.

Your child might benefit from you reading some of the book to them, them reading some of the book to you and you asking questions about the book and what they have read.

Reading



## Spellings

We will continue to follow the No Nonsense Spellings programme that we started to follow last year. Your child will receive 10 words on a Monday to practise at home in preparation for a spelling test on Friday of that week. However, we will not be sending a homework book home at this time. Instead, I will put your child's spellings onto eSchools for them to access at home. We will spend some time in class next week logging onto eSchools and I will show your child how to access the 'Spellings' folder. This is the information that your child will need in order to log in to eSchools:

- Website: <https://kingstreet.eschools.co.uk/web>
- The website is best accessed using a computer, laptop, iPad or tablet.
- Click the 'Login' button at the top right of the page.
- Username: your child's first name, a full stop and your child's last name e.g. tony.stark (all lowercase and no spaces)
- Password: king (again, all lowercase)

## 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 either email the office on [kingstreet@durhamlearning.net](mailto:kingstreet@durhamlearning.net) or phone the office on 01388 816 078.



## Water bottles

Your child is welcome to bring a bottle of 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 will 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.

## 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.



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!

Kind regards,  
Miss Wigham.