



Birchwood Avenue Primary School

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Year 3 Autumn Newsletter

Dear Families of Year 3,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for another year of adventures in Year 3. I am delighted to be teaching your child this year and I look forward to getting to know you all as the year progresses. There are lots to look forward to this Autumn Term, as the start of our new learning journey. Our learning value of the month will be 'resilience' where children will begin to understand the importance of continuing to try hard and put in effort when things become challenging. We feel as a school that our values underpin our learning behaviour and this is reflected in our work.

PE

Our **PE** days are **Thursday** and **Friday**. Children will be expected to bring in the correct PE uniform (bearing the weather in mind) and changing independently at school. We advise that children wear trainers, rather than plimsolls, as trainers are better at supporting children's ankle development. Children should also be able to remove any jewellery themselves – including religious jewellery. This term we are focussing on invasion games in hockey and football, leading on to Dance lessons. We will be using and developing our passing, receiving, shooting, and defending skills in basketball as well as learning the basics of Boccia!

English

In English, we will be focusing on a variety of texts covering a range of genres. As a whole school, we will start the year with a beautiful story, 'The Wonder. As the term progresses, we will be exploring narrative in familiar stories, poetry and instruction writing. As we meet each genre, we will examine the text type and build towards planning, creating and editing our own versions. Throughout the term, we will be developing our grammar knowledge, securing our understanding of what a sentence looks like and start to introduce more complex sentence structures.

Whole class reading sessions will be based on a range of texts, including our current class novel, where children will be required to answer questions about what they have read and use their own thoughts and ideas to think about how the characters may feel.

By the end of the year, children are expected to be able to write extended pieces showing neat handwriting, appropriate punctuation and clear understanding. To support this as caregivers you can encourage them to write at home daily.

Reading

Please continue to support your child, to encourage a love of reading. They will bring a reading book home linked to their current reading level.

We expect them to read for at least 15 minutes each evening, discuss what has happened, and talk about the characters and setting, as this will deepen their understanding of the text. A good grasp of reading will help your child access all areas of the curriculum and stand them in good stead to make progress in their learning. This needs to be recorded in the Reading Record and signed by an adult; any comments you make are very helpful. Please bring this in everyday so that the children can continue to read the book in school, and so that an adult in school can check the reading record. Books are likely to be longer now that the children are in Key Stage 2, so they will be changed as the children finish them.

Maths

Our learning is centred around number and place value for the Autumn Term. The children will develop their understanding of addition and subtraction, using various methods, including building mental fluency and developing written methods such as columnar addition and subtraction. Towards the end of the autumn term, we will also be looking at angles, shape and perimeter, including using perimeter to solve problems.

Science

This term the children will be learning about skeletons and muscles. The children will understand what a human skeleton looks like, its function, how bones and muscles work together, how skeletons vary between animals and the nutrition benefits different animals bodies. Towards the end of the autumn term, we will be focussing on rocks and fossils. In this area, the children will learn what rocks are, their properties and how we can group them. We will also be learning about how different rocks can be used, the process of fossilisation, identifying different kinds of soil, and learning who Mary Anning was. Throughout all science lessons, we will be using our enquiry skills to answer a range of questions.

PSHE

We will continue to use the Jigsaw approach to mindfulness, which focuses on the areas 'Being Me' and 'Celebrating differences'. These areas will give the children an opportunity to think about what they are proud of within themselves, the goals and aspirations they may have, and the importance of being different from the people around us.

History

For the first half term, we will be looking at the Stone, Bronze and Iron Age. The children will learn about life during the different prehistoric periods, Stonehenge and how it compares to life in some of the earliest civilisations.

Geography

For the second half term, we will be finding out why people live near volcanoes. We will be looking at how the Earth is constructed, the formation of volcanoes and the positive and negative effects of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Art and Design

For the first half of the autumn term, we will be exploring prehistoric art linked to our history unit as well as developing our drawing skills through shading and observations. We will be using a range of media to create charcoal animals and our own prehistoric palettes.

Design and Technology

In the second half of the term, we will explore cooking and nutrition, finding out about seasonal food, cutting, peeling and tasting our creations!

RE

In RE this term, the children will be learning about what makes us human. We will think about how we are all connected, spirituality and what some Buddhists do to focus on their inner self.

Computing

In Computing, we will be learning about computing systems and networks, as well as digital devices that we have in our daily lives.

Spanish

The children will begin by learning all about the Spanish culture. Alongside this, they will develop their language skills by learning greetings and numbers.

Homework

Spelling/ grammar

Every Friday, a new list of spellings or grammar focus will be sent home for your children to practise. The spellings will not be tested, but instead the children will be expected to practice using the words in their everyday writing. In this way, the spellings become embedded and the children are more likely to remember them. These words will be linked to the spelling pattern being taught in class that week.

Maths

Every Friday, we will be setting a maths activity from our Maths Essentials scheme, to continue practising their concepts at home.

When learning times tables, the expectation is that every child works on their number facts knowledge every day. Times tables should be known inside out and back to front, as well as knowing number facts. At the end of autumn term, children should be able to talk about their mathematics using the numbers they are familiar with, applying their understanding of number and place value to a greater range of problems. They should be able to make decisions about calculations and information that is needed to solve problems. To help children achieve this, weekly tables practice is set on TT rockstars and can be accessed on the link here.

<https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student>

I look forward to spending this first term together. Myself, and the Year 3 team, are always happy to answer any queries (preferably at the end of the day once all the children have been dismissed).

Many thanks,

Miss Brown
Year 3 Class Teacher