

Birchwood Avenue Primary School

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Year 3 Spring Newsletter

Dear Families of Year 3,

A very Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to the Spring Term. We hope you had a restful Winter break and are looking forward to the term ahead. Our learning value of the term will be 'empathy' where children will begin to understand the importance of feelings of one another. 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 will have one indoor gymnastics session looking at symmetry and asymmetry and an outdoor invasion games lesson of football.

English

In English, we will be focusing on a variety of texts covering a range of genres. We will first be exploring instructions as we read 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth.' 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 'The Twits', 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.

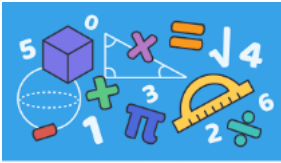
By the end of the year, children are expected to be able to write extended pieces showing neat handwriting, appropriate punctuation and clear understanding. To support this as caregivers you can encourage them to write at home daily.



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 on shape and multiplication for the Spring Term. The children will develop their understanding of 2D and 3D shape, and build on their previous knowledge of multiplication to increase their mental fluency of timetable facts $3\times/4\times$ and $8\times$. Towards the end of the spring term, we will also be looking at fractions and how to add and subtract them.



Science

This term the children will be learning about light and shadows. The children will understand what light is and how we see objects. We will compare day and night and consider how shadows are formed. Towards the end of the term, we will look at how the size and shape of shadows change as well as what materials are reflective and therefore good to wear at night. Throughout all science lessons, we will be using our enquiry skills to answer a range of questions.



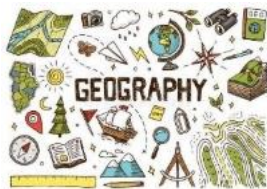
PSHE

We will continue to use the Jigsaw approach to mindfulness, which focuses on the areas 'Dreams and Goals' and 'Healthy Me'. These areas will give the children an opportunity to think about what goals and aspirations they may have, and the importance of having a healthy lifestyle.



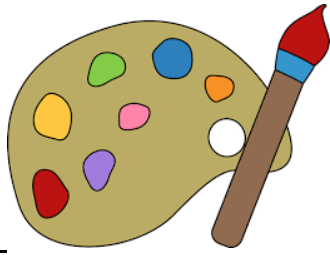
History

For the first half term, we will be looking at The Romans. The children will learn about why the Romans invaded and settled in Britain, how the Celts reacted and how the Romans changed life in Britain.



Geography

For the second half term, we will be finding out where Antarctica is in the world. The children will look at who lives in Antarctica, find out about explorer Ernest Shackleton and prepare their own expeditions around the school using compass directions.



Art and Design

For the first half of the spring term we will be looking at sculpture. We will be transforming 2D card shapes into 3D structures and sculptures; exploring abstract shapes and space, developing skills in constructing 3D objects, and understanding the difference between 2D and 3D art.

Design and Technology

In the second half of the term, we will explore the digital world, designing a digital, wearable piece of technology and developing a program and housing for a Micro:bit.

RE

In RE this term, the children will focusing on the question, 'Is scripture central to religion?' We will reflect on what revelation means to some people and explore the significance of some scriptures.



Computing

In Computing, we will be learning about how to programme sprites on Scratch, sequencing code and how to create our own coded instrument.



Spanish

The children will begin by learning all about animals in a pet shop. They will continue developing their understanding of numbers and begin to use plurals in their spoken vocabulary.



Music

The children will create their own class orchestra by exploring arrangements. They will consider the following questions: How do we turn a known song into a successful whole class performance? How instruments can be used to devise effective accompaniments. They will make their own musical decisions, practising and rehearsing towards a final whole class performance. They will begin to read staff notations such as, Ostinato, Dynamics Crescendo and Diminuendo Form and structure labelling musical sections.

Homework - Spelling/ grammar

Every Friday, a new list of spellings or grammar focus will be sent home for your children to practice. 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 practicing 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. 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 next 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