



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school and to the start of Key Stage Two! I am delighted to be teaching Year Three and look forward to a happy and successful year. The children have settled very well and are pleased to be back. They are enjoying rekindling their friendships and finding out what is on the timetable for this term.

I am really looking forward to our Year 3 learning journey this year and hope that your child thrives, progresses well and enjoys the year. With this in mind, the following information about the curriculum for this term should help you understand what we are covering and help you to further support your child.

Staff

These are the principal staff your children will encounter in Gosling Class;

Ms. O'Reilly – Main class teacher

Mr. Reynolds – Trainee teacher (Monday-Thursdays) in the Autumn and Summer term

Mr. Whittle – PE

Mrs. Pow - Spanish

Reading

Reading is **the** key to accessing every area of the curriculum, so it vital that together we support their progress in this area. The children have been issued with a new reading diary in which to record their reading, both in school and at home. They know that they need to take their diary home every afternoon and bring it into school the following morning when it will be checked. The expectation is that you or your child will make an entry in their diary each evening but certainly 4 or 5 times per week. Sometimes this may follow a theme, for example, they might be asked to make a prediction or summarise a chapter. If they are reading non-fiction, they might like to tell me a new fact they have discovered. I would strongly urge you to listen to your child read aloud and discuss the text with them. This would benefit them enormously. Please sign and date the diary every time you hear your child read and include any thoughts you may have. Your views are always welcome. Although the children will bring home books each day to read from our classroom shelves, please encourage them to include any other books they read at home, both fiction and non-fiction. It is always interesting to know the children's choices and preferences. In class, we will also be having guided reading sessions in smaller groups or as a class.

I have included a brief note to you and the children which are already in the reading diaries.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set using Google Classroom. It will be clearly indicated and accessible via your child's login. It will be set on a THURSDAY to be completed by the following TUESDAY. The children may print the homework task and stick the sheets into their book or (and preferably) may answer set questions directly into their yellow homework book. We will continue to using Spelling Shed this year for weekly spelling, which they can access through their Spelling Shed account, just like last year. Each small term, your child will have a longer spelling list – their Spelling Star words, which will be tested during the last week before we break up. In addition to daily reading, your child will be set a maths and English task weekly (though this may occasionally change) to complete. Homework should be neatly presented with the same expectations as in the classroom. Headings and dates should be recorded and underlined. Please encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip and posture. Please also encourage your child to practice spellings and revisit old spellings they found challenging. It will benefit them considerably as they continue up through the years. Homework should be completed in pencil.

Homework is given to reinforce what they are learning at school, so they should for the most part be able to complete tasks independently, but some support may be needed, especially in the early weeks.

P.E.

In addition to PE in school, children will have swimming lessons on a Tuesday morning. Please refer to the letters sent out by Mrs. Lewington for dates and arrangements. The children will need a towel, swimming costume for girls (not a bikini) and tighter lycra-style shorts for boys (not the loose beach-type ones), a swimming hat and if they choose, goggles. We will be travelling to and from Braywick by coach. It is always so exciting to see the progress the children make during this term and how their confidence in the water increases. On their return, we put ties back on, so it would be really helpful for them to know how to tie them!

Gosling class will be having P.E on a Monday morning and Thursday afternoon, with Mr. Whittle. On these days, the children should come to school in their PE kits, staying in them all day. For the vast majority of the year, sessions will be outdoors, so it is important that the children have trainers in school. The uniform is polo shirts (with or without the school logo) and shorts, though as the weather gets colder the children will need track suit bottoms instead of shorts. Please see the website for school uniform information. ALL items of uniform should be named. We are always grateful to parents who do this, and it is incredibly helpful, as we often spend considerable amounts of time trying to reunite children with unnamed uniform, or trying to locate uniform when a child loses an item which is not named.

Classroom Equipment

Children in Key Stage 2 are required to bring their own equipment to school. It would be helpful therefore if the children had items such as writing and colouring pencils, a rubber, a sharpener and a 30cm ruler, preferably a rigid one, as well as a glue stick, in a clear pencil case. These are stored in their desks for their use only. We do of course have this equipment in the classroom should children need it. It is also helpful to provide your child with hand sanitiser and tissues. Glue sticks often run out, so please remember to ask your child regularly if it needs replacing.

As the year progresses, I will be awarding some children their pen licence once they have shown consistent and neat handwriting, with clearly defined ascenders and descenders, in a joined cursive style. This is a hard-earned privilege, as I have found that if pens are used when good handwriting isn't fully embedded, this can result in a deterioration in their standard of presentation, and I have occasionally had to require that a child reverts to a pencil – a scenario we all want to avoid. If a child does earn their pen licence, they may use a blue handwriting pen for all writing, except maths and art/DT. At this point, if the children have their own pen, please ensure that it is a handwriting pen (not a biro) and it is clearly named.

Water bottles should be filled each morning before coming to school. In KS2 we no longer receive free fruit, so the children may bring a fruit snack for playtime. As cloakroom space is limited, please ensure your child has a bag which is suitable for their needs and not over-sized.

Curriculum

In **English**, Year 3 will focus on reading comprehensions, grammar, punctuation, handwriting and spelling lessons. We will use quality texts to explore different genres of writing. During the term, we will look at 'Stone Age Boy' 'Stig of the Dump' and after October half term, Roald Dahl's 'The Twits'. These will be the inspiration for us to learn and try out writing genres such as character studies, letter writing, biographies, recounts and stories. This year, we will continue to use Spelling Shed to deliver a carefully constructed spelling programme, with assignments set weekly. The spelling shed log in details for your child can be found inside their reading diaries and homework books.

In **maths** this term, the children will be learning about place value of 3 and 4-digit numbers, comparing, ordering and identifying the value of digits within numbers, addition and subtraction and later multiplication and division. We will work towards quick recall of multiplication and division facts. By the end of year 3, it is the expectation that the children **will know and fluently recall at least their 2, 10, 5, 3, 4, 8 multiplication and division facts**. We will also be learning mental and written addition and subtraction strategies. We aim to develop the children's fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills. In addition to their normal maths lesson, we are introducing a maths fluency session most days, which will be 15 minute focus on developing quick recall of number facts, adding and subtracting across tens and hundreds and counting in different amounts. You will find your child's Times Tables Rock Star log in details inside their reading diaries and homework book – this is a really fun way for them to learn quick recall of their tables.

In **Science** this term, the topic will be 'Rocks and fossils'. The children will be able to know the difference between natural and human-made rocks, compare different kinds of rocks based on their appearance, make systematic and careful observations by examining different types of rocks. We will investigate the permeability of different soils, recognising that soils are made from rocks and organic matter by explaining how soil is formed. We will also describe in simple terms how fossils are formed and explain Mary Anning's contribution to palaeontology. In the second half of the term, we will be studying light; reflection and shadows and how/why they occur and darkness as the absence of light.

Our **history** topic this half term is the Stone Age, moving to the Bronze and Iron Ages in the next half term. The children will explore what humans needed for survival, timelines and sources of evidence. We will learn what people living at that time ate, how they lived (moving from hunter gathering to farming), what types of houses they built and cave paintings. As well as our history focus, the Stone Age will support our art learning (cave paintings, rock paintings) and English (as we read the book 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura and Stig of the Dump).

Our theme for **RE** this term is belonging and we will take a look at signs of belonging – for example 'Does taking bread and wine show that someone is a Christian?' We will explore the ritual of communion and baptism and other ways Christians might show they belong to the church. In Term 2, we will explore whether light is a good symbol for celebration, looking at examples of use of light in a variety of religions.

In **Music** we will be learning to compose using animations as a stimulus and in the run up to Christmas, will be developing singing techniques. This is in addition to our work on Harvest Festival and Christmas music. In **PSHE**, under the heading of family and relationships, we will be studying communication, respect and stereotypes. In Autumn 2, we will be learning about self-empowerment and resilience (under the heading of Health and Wellbeing). In **computing** we will be exploring computer networks and the Internet, specifically Google.

This term we are aiming to run a Science and Technology Week and then a Maths and Computing Week as we have in the past. Maths and Computing Week will coincide with the national 'Maths Week England'.

I look forward to teaching your children and having a very productive Autumn Term. Once again, if there is anything you are unsure of, please contact me through the office, or catch me at the end of the day!

Thank you for your support.

Fiona O'Reilly