



Class 3 News - September 2019

Welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely summer break and are keen to get into the routine of school life again.

English and History: In history we are learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age and will be basing our English work around books on this topic. This half term we will be looking at Stone Age Boy and writing stories, setting descriptions and character studies linked to the story. We will be using the lovely illustrations in the book to help to inspire our writing.

Spelling, punctuation and handwriting are basic skills which require a lot of repetition and practice. We will be focusing carefully on these skills this term and trying our best to tighten them up to be of the highest standards.

Art: Our topic is linked to the Stone Age. We will be looking at cave paintings and learning techniques to sketch and draw animals from this period. We will be experimenting with charcoal, berries, leaves, homemade paints and more so the children get a sense of what it was like to create art thousands of years ago and why these pieces were created.

Maths: We will be focusing on number and place value and methods of addition and subtraction in the first three weeks. We will then move on to multiplication and division and finish the half term looking at fractions.

In September 2019, a new statutory assessment of times tables facts was introduced. In June 2020, pupils in Year 4 will be expected to complete an online test, where they must answer random times table facts in less than six seconds. We aim to prepare the children the best we can, so we hope to have a one-to-one session for each child with a Teaching Assistant on a Monday afternoon where they can practise chanting and answering times table facts. A slip will be sent home to say which times table your child needs to focus on next.

Science: The children will be studying health and movement. The children will learn how animals, including humans, need specific nutrition to help them move and grow. We will see how humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles to help their bodies move.

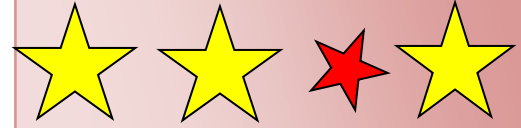
RE: The children will be studying what Hindus believe and looking at the festival of Diwali.

Music: We will be learning to play the recorder this year with Mrs Coulls, our music specialist from the Durham Music Service.

PE: Our swimming day has changed to a Tuesday and we are now going to Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre. Mrs Robinson and Mrs Dodd accompany the children in the water and offer support to anyone who is nervous or unsure. Your child will need a swimming costume/trunks, towel and swimming hat. Goggles are optional. Swimming hats are available to buy at the leisure centre. We have a limited supply of goggles and hats which can be borrowed if your child forgets anything.

We have a gymnastics coach on a Friday from South Durham Gym Club. Please ensure that your child has his / her PE kit on the allocated days. For gymnastics, they will need navy shorts/joggers and a white T shirt. Please can long hair be tied back and all jewellery removed on PE and swimming days.

Please write a note in your child's school diary or contact the school office if there are any circumstances where they need to miss PE or swimming.



Homework and Spelling

Homework is set on a Tuesday and due to be handed in the following Monday. Packs won't be sent out every night, so please send the homework book back in the polythene bag, once the homework is complete.

Weekly spellings will be sent out on a Tuesday as part of your child's homework. We really appreciate your support in helping your child to learn their weekly spellings at home. Your child will be tested on a Monday then new words organised and issued on a Tuesday.

Reading

I have issued a new reading book to every child in the class based on the reading records handed over from their previous year group. In class 3, we will change books overnight on a Monday and Thursday. Please could you date, sign and make a note in your child's diary to let me know whether they need a book change.

I appreciate life can get very busy, so I have made a timetable to help remind you what is happening when in Class 3. Please see the timetable overleaf.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch,

Kind regards,

Miss Dodds



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Homework due in	Swimming	Opportunity to read aloud to a volunteer	Reading diaries due in (Books will be changed after school)	PE
Reading diaries due in (Books will be changed after school)	Opportunity to read aloud to a volunteer		Community Bank	Book Club
Weekly spelling test				
Times Tables one-to-one session	Homework and reading diaries sent home			Reading books and diaries sent home