

Year 3 Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents, Welcome back to Our Lady of Victories after a well-deserved summer break!

I am very excited about our first term in Year 3 and I hope your children have all enjoyed settling back into school and joining their new class. This curriculum letter will give you an overview of what the autumn term will look like and go into detail of the wonderful term of learning we have planned!

Miss McAlea and Mrs D'Aiuto

English

We have started this term by recapping our spelling, punctuation and grammar from Year 2, with lessons on homophones, conjunctions, and word classes (adjectives, verbs and nouns).

Throughout the autumn term, we will be focusing on linking our English texts to our History topic of 'Stone Age Britain' whenever possible, to ensure a cross-curricular link between both subjects. All of our core texts focus on an exciting and engaging set of lessons, which shows how reading, spoken language and writing can all be addressed through creative learning experiences.

For the first term, our core text is 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. Children will engage with the text through drama, discussion and debate in order to increase their familiarity with the structure of the story. Year 3 will develop their grammar skills by using adverbials and working with thesauruses as they have the opportunity to draft, plan and write their own story based on the structure of the Stone Age Boy. Later in the term, we will be focusing on the non-fiction topic of instructional writing, using 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' by Michelle Robinson as our core text.

As a stand-alone whole class-reading lesson, Year 3 will be reading 'Stig of the Dump' by Clive King. These separate, more focused lessons allow students to establish and develop reading skills, including modelling and questioning. Our whole-class reading lessons aim to introduce new vocabulary and encourage children to 'read between the lines' of their book. Most children have a deep love for reading, however do not take the time to stop and interpret what they have read. Our whole-class reading sessions will develop that skill whilst reading a topic-appropriate text!

After half term, our history topic will change to 'Iron Age Britain' therefore our English core texts will change too. Our narrative writing will be focused on the core text 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. This text allows children to use comparative language, write in the role of a character and adapt the ending of the story. We will cover spoken language and writing (transcription, handwriting, composition and spelling) which are all components of the 2014 curriculum. We will also cover the non-fiction topic of persuasive writing, using the core text 'the Day the Crayons Quit' by Oliver Jeffers as our stimulus.

Mathematics

We will begin the autumn term with place value and consolidating our knowledge of hundreds, tens and ones. Year 3 will begin to partition numbers up to 1000 using physical manipulatives in lesson. They will develop their learning of number lines, and will be able to estimate on a number line to 1000.

In the following topic, the children will move onto addition and subtraction. This has a focus on children knowing their number bonds to 10 confidently, and working towards adding and subtracting 1's, 10's and 100's from numbers. Towards the end of this topic, children will learn how to correctly use column method addition and subtraction as well as other methods such as using number lines.

Our final unit will be multiplication and division. Year 3 will be multiplying and dividing by different numbers using different methods. The children will be expected to know all their times tables by the end of the year. We will practice times tables frequently, both formally with times tables grids and informally using times tables games. Please do encourage them to practice as much as possible, the more practice, the better!

Throughout these topics, we will be looking at developing our using and applying skills, our mathematical reasoning and mental arithmetic.

History

In History this term we will be focusing on 'Stone age to Iron Age Britain'. The children will cover Stone Age life, learning about weapons, farming and settlement and iconic historical sites such as Skara Brae and Stone Henge. We aim to have a focus on chronology and ensure Year 3 have a solid understanding of historical timelines.

Year 3 will cover the changes in materials and tools over time, from stone to bronze to iron. As well as some of the cultural changes in hillfort communities. To enrich our learning further, we intend to have a history day where we truly immerse ourselves in Stone Age life!

Science

In our first topic 'Plants' Year 3 will be learning about the requirements to growing a healthy plant, the identification of plant parts and the life cycle of plants. The children will grow their own plants within the classroom, and they will assess how different environments effect plant growth. To enrich our learning further, we will be going on a trip this half term all about plants and the environment.

After half term, our topic will be 'Animals Including Humans'. Year 3 will learn to understand nutritious needs for both humans and animals, and identify the impact that diet, smoking and exercise has on the human body. They will also identify the main parts of the human circulatory system and describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood.

Religious Education

Our first RE topic is 'The Christian Family'. Through this topic, we will learn the different roles within both local and national Churches and reflect on the importance of how the family of Church helps us.

The children will also learn about the religious symbols and steps involved in the Sacrament of Baptism. Our RE topic allows children to use specialist vocabulary, whilst practicing their discussion skills. Later this term, we will be studying the topic 'Mary, our Mother'.

In addition to our R.E. lessons, we have a large focus on classroom worship, with each child having the opportunity to lead a prayer in class. We ensure our R.E. lessons are creative with a constant focus on thought and reflection.

Computing

The children will learn about the importance of e-safety continuously throughout the year. We will begin by using a school program to teach the children how to write their own blogs in our secure ICT suite. The blog they create will link to our learning in history. After half term, we will be looking at how to use the internet safely for research purposes, we will use these skills when researching in our science and history lessons.

Art and Design Technology

This term our art focus is on pre-historic art. We will cover a large range of new skills such as texture, shading and tone whilst working to make prehistoric inspired art pieces. The children will create their own cave art, draw prehistoric animals using charcoal and even create their own paint using materials from a nature walk!

Later in the term, we will be using design and technology to design and create our own Stone Age Weapon.

PE

Children will have PE every Tuesday with Fulham Football Club. Children must arrive at school in their PE kits every Tuesday rather than regular school uniform. The children will be learning net and wall games such as short tennis where they focus on aiming/accuracy and directional control.

Homework

Maths and English homework will be set on a **Monday morning** on google classroom and is to be handed back into school the following Monday in their homework books. Alongside the Maths and English, children will be given handwriting, spellings and times tables work. Times tables and spellings are to be learned for the following week. Their times table tests and spelling tests will take place on Friday.

Children have been individually assessed using the Read, Write, Inc scheme, and they have been appropriately placed on a reading level. Your child will either be on RWI colour banding or Chapter 1, Chapter 2, or Chapter 3. These levels are based on understanding of vocabulary, aswell as reading

with expression and fluency. Children are re-assessed regularly so they can change banding throughout the year.

Please encourage your children to read every night and to record what they have read in their reading records. Once a week your child should read aloud with an adult or older sibling at home. The adult must record a comment about the child's reading and sign their name.

Reading books will be changed weekly on a **Friday morning**. Please make sure your child has brought their book and reading record into school on Friday, books cannot be changed unless your child brings them in.

Alongside their reading record, children will be given a 'word log', we greatly encourage your children to use these. They write a new word they have read, research the definition, and add it to their word log. It helps children to build their vocabulary and understanding whilst reading and is incredibly beneficial to their English development.

I know we are in for a fantastic term of learning; I can't wait to watch our class progress and grow over the next few months.

Miss McAlea and Mrs D'Aiuto