



5th February, 2016

Year 3 topic introduction - 'Time and Place, Earth and Space'

Dear Parents,

Over the next 8 weeks, Year 3 will be following a unit of work on a theme that focuses on 'Time and Place, Earth and Space'.

This unit of work is part of the International Primary Curriculum. This new curriculum sets out very clearly what children will learn – the learning goals – in three different areas:

1. The subjects of the curriculum. The learning goals for each of these subjects are at least as challenging as anything taught in the curriculum in your child's own country. In many cases, the learning goals are more challenging.
2. Personal development – the characteristics which will help children become more responsible, independent learners.
3. International understanding – which will help children develop both a sense of the independence of their own country and culture and the interdependence between countries and cultures.

Each unit of work is based around specific targets derived from the learning goals for one or more of the subjects.

During this unit we will be focusing on Science, Geography, Technology, Society and International studies.

As Scientists, we'll be:

- Finding out about the sun and the Earth, how they move and interact and how this relates to the passage of time, day and night and the seasons.
- Finding out about shadows, how they are formed and how we can use them to measure time.

As Geographers, we'll be:

- Finding out how the movement of the Earth around the Sun creates different seasons, weather patterns and natural environments around the world.
- Finding out how human activities can be affected by the different seasons around the world
- Finding out how the Earth is divided into different time zones and how this impacts on human activity and communications.
- Finding out how to locate countries and places using latitude and longitude on a globe.



As Technologists, we'll be:

- Looking at the appropriateness of individual technologies, as well as their positive benefits and limitations in relation to a specific time and place.
- Designing and making a calendar and a sun dial.

In Society, we'll be:

- Finding out about festivals and traditions connected with light which measure the passage of time

In International, we'll be:

- Finding out about similarities and differences between people in different parts of the world to which we are connected by lines of latitude and longitude

All of the work we are going to do has been specially written to help your child reach the learning goals. Children will be reading, researching, writing, illustrating, working on their own and working in groups. We will be checking to see how well your child has learned through particular activities and asking children to explain their work, perhaps to you.

We already know the interest you take in your child's work. If you can, please discuss with your child the work they have done as the term progresses and let them teach you.

If your child has some work to research, please help them, but without actually doing the work. If you have the chance to further their interest in the ideas of this theme please take it, but your enthusiasm and interest is most important.

By the end of the unit, we hope your child has achieved all of the learning targets. We hope they have had an enjoyable time in the classroom. And we hope you have enjoyed seeing your child work with enthusiasm. If you have any comments about the work your child has done, please get in touch.

Kind regards,

The Year 3 Team