



# Year 3 Curriculum Newsletter

November 2014

Dear Parents,

We had a fantastic first half-term getting to know the children and we are looking forward to more exciting learning in the run up to Christmas. This letter aims to provide an indication of the areas of the curriculum covered this term in Year 3.

## MATHS

This term's mathematics objectives include:

- Multiplication and division - including multiplication of two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers, using mental and formal written methods and problem solving with multiplication and division;
- Shapes – including drawing 2-D shapes and making 3-D shapes; and
- Fractions – including counting up and down in tenths and working out fractions involving tenths.

In our *Learn Its* sessions, we will be consolidating the 3 times table, aiming for instant mental recall.

## ENGLISH

This will include speaking and listening, reading and writing. We will be continuing the *Letters and Sounds* phonics programme daily. During our *Literacy Workshop* time, we will develop reading and comprehension skills in small group sessions. In spelling we will look at suffixes and prefixes, and consider spelling rules. Our purpose for writing will include: a non-chronological report, persuasive writing and writing a film narrative from *The Snowman*.

## THEME

Vikings: As part of our cross-curricular approach, children will be learning about the Vikings. This will include a focus on Geography and History. In History, we will be looking at the impact of these invaders and settlers. In Geography, we will look at why invaders invade and settle where they do. We will look at 8 compass points and locate major countries in Europe on a map.

## Science:

*Rocks & Soil* - Children will compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. They will describe in simple terms



how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock and recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.

#### MANDARIN

In Year 3, children will be introduced to the following skills through various activities. There will be a greater emphasis on sentence structure, grammar and reading comprehension.

Pathway 1 pupils will be learning about different family members, body parts and colours in Chinese. They will also learn to write the date in Chinese.

Pathway 2 pupils will be learning how to communicate their address, telephone numbers, family members, birthdays, favorite colours and animals in Mandarin. They will be able to translate numbers (1-100) and write the date in Chinese.

Pathway 3 pupils will learn more chapters which include 《长大后》、《天上的大象》、《首影游戏》 and 《小兔吃菜》. Through these chapters, they will learn more vocabulary and different kinds of sentence structure. They will have exercises in comprehension and essay writing.

#### ART

Pupils will continue to explore their Viking theme during their art lesson. Pupils will initially research different shapes and patterns used on Viking shields before designing and creating their own mosaic shield using cut paper. *Mrs. Pate*

#### MUSIC

This term, Year 3 students will study the 'elements of music' through a topic called 'Water'. Students will listen to a variety of music and compose and perform, experimenting with dynamics, texture, timbre, duration, silence, pitch, tempo and attack and decay. They will use a combination of music notation and graphic score in this unit. *Miss. Rowan*

#### DRAMA

Pupils will continue their Viking topic in their drama lessons where they will be exploring some popular Viking myths and legends and developing their own story based performances about Viking life. *Miss. Bovingdon*



## PE

Pupils will be following a unit of ball skills that will develop fundamental sporting skills such as throwing, catching, passing, tackling and kicking. Pupils will be able to make a connection between these skills and major sporting activities. *PE Team*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A reminder that homework will be sent out on Fridays to be returned the following Wednesday. This homework will be a 30 minute task and will be either English, Maths or Theme related. There will also be a weekly Spelling Test every Monday. There is also a 30 minutes piece of Mandarin homework to complete each week. We have had some fantastic homework back so thank you for your support!

We expect your child to read for 20 minutes a day and please write what your child has read, along with any comments, in the Pupil Planner. Comments might be 'read well' or 'struggled with \_\_\_\_\_'. Please ask lots of questions as you read to check your child has understood what they are reading. For example, you might like to ask, 'Do you like this character? Why?' during reading and 'What do you think will happen next? Why do you think that?' after reading. Research has shown that reading books is vital to academic success so keep reading!

Advance warning! In late November we will be having a *Viking Day* as part of our theme and we would like pupils to dress up as Vikings for a day so please start thinking about costumes. We are also planning a trip to a local library to think about research skills, where to find information and to see lots of amazing books.

You can contact the Year 3 team by sending an email; we welcome any correspondence with parents. Our contact details are below. We look forward to meeting you all again very soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Year 3 Teachers

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