

Year 3 Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 2024



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you are all looking forward to the year ahead. Below is a brief overview of our plans for this term in Year 3, which I hope you find useful.

Well-being & Growth Mind Set: as a school, we will be continuing our ongoing focus on pupil well-being and resilience. Across the school we will, throughout the year, continue to develop our 'growth mind set' in order to help build resilience, develop positive attitudes towards challenging ourselves in our learning, wellbeing, and much, much more.

English: This term we will be exploring a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts including narrative, free verse poetry, fables & non-chronological reports. Grammar will be taught throughout the term as part of our English lessons, and spellings work will focus on revising strategies and spelling rules from Year 2. Spellings skills are a crucial focus area and as such, will be focused on not just as part of English lessons, but also within dedicated spelling lessons each week, using the Herts spelling scheme.

Reading: In Year 3, we set aside time throughout the week for guided reading sessions, where we use a wide range of genres throughout the year to support children in developing their core skills. Please continue to listen to your child read as often as possible (at least 3 times a week) & to record a brief comment in their reading record to help us to monitor their progress. Please also take the time to discuss the texts your child is reading with you in order to support their vocabulary & comprehension development – discussions around the plot, the author's choice of words & whether other words could have been chosen instead are all good starting points.

Mathematics: The maths curriculum continues to have a very strong emphasis on fluency, which includes multiplication & division tables, which the children must be confident in to enable them to fully access the concepts & strategies used in class throughout the year. We will be spending the first part of the Autumn term building fluency skills for the Year 2 tables requirements before moving on to the Year 3 expectations - By the end of Year 3, your child needs to be fluent in the multiplication and division facts for the **2,3,4,5, 8 & 10** times tables. Please spend regular time each week focusing on these skills, reviewing times tables they have previously mastered in order to build their speed of recall, using known facts to help them learn other times tables (e.g. using the two times table to help them learn the four times table), looking at number patterns within a particular table and learning the division facts for each times table to help them develop their understanding of inverse operations. The more they can develop their times tables confidence this year the better, as by the end of Year 4 they will need to know all multiplication and division facts up to 12x12! Below are some links that you may find useful in supporting your child in this area of their learning.

- www.timestables.co.uk – a great resource for helping to learn times tables (accounts are free)
- www.ttrockstars.com – TT RockStars (particularly good for developing speed of recall)
- www.topmarks.co.uk – Hit the Button,

History & Geography: This term in history we will be developing our historical enquiry skills with our 'Ancient Egyptians' topic. After half term, we will follow on from our work on the Ancient Egyptians by focusing on the River Nile and its importance to both ancient and modern day Egypt.

Science: In science this term we will be developing both our knowledge and enquiry skills through our topics 'Forces & Magnets' & 'Light, Shadows & Reflections' (alongside exploring modern scientific thinking in this area, we will also be making links to our history topic by comparing Ancient Egyptian beliefs about light/the sun with our modern scientific understanding).

Art & Design Technology: In Art this term we will be developing a range of drawing skills through the medium of charcoal, whilst in DT we will be exploring the use of mechanical systems by creating pneumatic toys.

Year 3 Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 2024

PE: This term, PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Children will be developing a wide range of individual and teamwork skills. Before half term, they will be focusing on tag rugby and developing a range of fundamental core skills; after half term children will be focusing on developing their skills through football and dance (linked to our history unit). Please ensure that your child is wearing appropriate PE kit in school on these days, which is in line with the school's uniform policy, as well as ensuring that long hair is tied back and earrings are either covered with tape (brought in from home) or not worn in school on these days. Watches will need to be removed for PE lessons.

Computing: This term we will be investigating coding, spreadsheets and online safety, using the children's Purple Mash accounts to access resources. Children are more than welcome to use Purple Mash at home outside of lessons to help them develop their skills further.

French: In Year 3 children begin to explore Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). As a school, children at Potten End explore the French language, which takes a very interactive approach in Year 3. This term we will be investigating a range of vocabulary through extensive oral work relating to the topics 'I am Learning French' and 'Animals'.

Music: We are pleased to welcome back Mr Street, who will be teaching Year 3 music this year.

Home Learning: As a school, the focus for homework this year continues to be reading/phonics and maths. Every week your child is expected to read or follow their learning from Read, Write, Inc. In addition to this, they will have one piece of maths homework which will alternate between online home learning and home learning in an exercise book, which will be linked to the learning being covered in school. Homework will be set on a Thursday, and will be returned the following Tuesday (work handed in/submitted late will **not** be marked).

- **Reading/phonics:** your child should read at least 3 times a week or complete their individual phonics work. It is lovely to see what the children are reading with you, so please record this in their reading record. Please note, these are not used to record every time your child reads in school as this happens regularly.
- **Spellings:** Please spend regular time each week working with your child to develop their spelling skills, which are crucial for the development of effective written communication. You will find a list of the KSI and Year3/4 core spellings on Google Classroom.
- **Maths:** maths homework will be set each week either as an activity on www.maths.co.uk, which your child will have an individual log in for or as an activity that can be downloaded from your child's Google Classroom account. These activities will be based on what your child is learning in school at the time (using the Herts Essentials scheme) or will focus on an essential skill that needs a little more work. Activities are set based on your child's maths skills.
 - Tasks set on www.maths.co.uk will be 'marked' automatically online and the results will be analysed in school to support ongoing assessment and planning.
 - Tasks set on Google Classroom can either be printed off or recorded directly in your Child's home learning book. These activities usually include a worked example, and then two or three challenge levels. Your child should choose and complete **one** of the challenge levels, based on their confidence in that particular area of maths.
 - Using activities which align with the learning in school supports children's retention of skills and also gives you a chance to see the range of vocabulary and strategies being used to support learning in the classroom.

I hope you find this information useful. I am looking to getting to know your children & working with you this year,

Miss Holmes