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September 2023

**Year 3 Newsletter**

**Autumn 1**

Welcome back to the new academic year and the first term of Year 3. Pupils will continue to go straight to their classrooms from 8.45am and undertake a range of independent learning activities set by the teacher, such as reading, handwriting, spelling, number bonds, times-tables or reviewing previous learning.  Any other messages should continue to be communicated through the school office, as before.  If your child arrives at school after 9.00am, please ensure that they go to the main school entrance so that they can be recorded in the register.  At the end of the school day, children can be collected from the playground, as usual, and teachers will be in the playground after school for informal conversations.  Please make sure that the children are correctly dressed in the correct school uniform, details can be found on the school website.

**Topic**

For the first week of term, we will be investigating and creating artwork all about the artist Frida Kahlo. Following on from that, we will be focusing on geography. Our question for the term will: Are all settlements the same? The children will learn how the Earth is constructed and about tectonic plates and their boundaries. Children learn how mountains are formed, explain the formation and types of volcanoes and explore the cause of earthquakes. They map the global distribution of mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and consider the negative and positive effects of living in a volcanic environment and the ways in which humans have responded to earthquakes.

**English: Writing**

In English, this half term we will begin by focussing on poetry song lyrics. The children will explore the song ‘It’s a Wonderful World’, and then they will write their own lyrics and perform them in front of the class. They will then focus on the book ‘Black Dog’, where they will create descriptions, dialogues and then write their own suspense story.

**English: Reading**

The children will continue to read in school on a regular basis, whether independently, in a guided group, or as a whole class, as well as having stories read to them. They will continue to develop their reading fluency with the development of a variety of skills, which will include retrieving and recording information from non-fictional & fictional texts, explaining the meaning of words in context, discussing words and phrases, and recognising different forms of poetry,

**Maths**

In maths this half term we will be covering a range of areas. Year 3 begins with a focus on developing number sense and reasoning within 100. Pupils will next focus on place value, with pupils deepening their conceptual understanding of numbers with up to 3 digits. We will be following the Maths Mastery programme.

**RE**

The first RE topic of the year is called What is the Bible’s Big Story and what does it reveal about having faith in God? The unit will help children understand how the bible came into being, and how the Bible is important to Christian Life.

**PE**

PE will be on a Monday, Tuesday & Thursday. The children can wear their PE kits into school on both days and will wear them home. For the PE kit, they will need a white polo shirt, navy shorts or jogging bottoms and all black trainers without a coloured trim.

**Homework**

An English homework, usually based around a spelling challenge, and maths homework will be sent home every Friday. The homework then needs to be handed in by the following Wednesday. Please support your child with the work, but do encourage as much independence as possible. Let us know if you have any questions about the homework.

**Home-school Reading**

Each week, children will take home a book appropriate for their current reading level. Please read with them, and talk about what they have read, for at least 20 minutes every day. Your child will be bringing home a new reading record; please use this to make a note of what they have read, as well as to add a comment at least once a day. The reading record should be returned to school every day, so we can add our own comments.

**Key Dates**

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| Wednesday 13th September 3:00-3:30 | Meet the teacher |
| Thursday 5th October 2023 | International Evening |
| Friday 20th October 2023 | Last day of first half term |
| Monday 30th October 2023 | First day back of half term |

We are really looking forward to what this term holds in store for us. If you would like to discuss any concerns with us, then please make an appointment with the school office.

Best wishes,

Year 3 Team