

## Year 3 Newsletter – Spring 1

### **Welcome**

Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a safe and wonderful Christmas break. We are so excited to get started with our Spring 1 learning; our units this half term are very exciting! Below is a summary of what we will be covering in year 3 this half term.

### **Reading**

This half term, we are moving towards longer texts in our guided reading sessions. The children will be learning about and discussing how authors create and develop characters through their writing. We will also be continuing to develop our reading fluency via methods such as echo reading. An emphasis will also be placed on reading comprehension skills. As always, we encourage the children to be reading at home as much as possible and we are grateful for the time you spend doing so.



### **Recommended reads:**

*The Hodgeheg* by Dick King-Smith

*Captain Pug* by Laura James

*You're a bad man, Mr Gum!* by Andy Stanton

### **Writing**

Continuing from all of the hard work last term, in Spring 1, we are going to start our writing lessons by focusing on character development. These pieces of writing will be linked with our Ancient Greece topic, as we will be describing Zeus and Poseidon. The children will focus on using powerful adjectives and even similes! This work will be developed into a non-fiction debate where the children will decide which Greek God was the most powerful. As the term progresses, we will look at more non-fiction pieces, finishing with a newspaper report.



We are also placing a strong focus on handwriting skills in year 3 (many have made this their new year's resolution!). At home, the children would benefit from practising their letter formation and sizing.

### **Maths**

Continuing from Autumn 2, we will be starting this term by completing the multiplication and division unit. The children have shown an interest in this, and many are keen to progress to their 4- and 8-times tables. This interest can also be channelled at home by logging into Times Table Rockstars. Before the end of this half term, we will also move onto some work around length and perimeter, using our addition and subtraction skills to calculate measurement.



### **Science**

Our science topic for this half term is called 'The Power of Forces'. Year 3 will be looking at the science behind forces, discovering what makes something move and how you can change an object's movement. In addition to this, we will do a study on magnets which involves sorting magnetic and non-magnetic items. This is a very stimulating topic which builds the children's curiosity.



### **Computing**

In computing, we will be looking at touch typing as our first unit of the half term. The children will be encouraged to pick up speed and accuracy when typing on a computer. Our focus will then move onto online communication where we will focus on emails. They will learn to open and respond to emails.

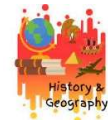


### **Art & Design/Design & Technology**



We will be running a Design & Technology unit this half term. The children will be designing, planning, building and evaluating their very own castle structure. We will learn to create designs which fit a brief, use a net to build a structure, and use a variety of materials to create a 3D model. How exciting – we can't wait to show you our creations!

### **Geography/History**



Our new 'Ancient Greece' topic is History driven. We will be exploring life in Ancient Greece and the impact that this has had on life today. Our lessons will involve placing Ancient Greece on the historical timeline, looking into Greek Gods and Goddesses, investigating knowledge in Ancient Greek times, and assessing the impact that Ancient Greece has had on modern society.

### **Music**



This half term, our learning in music will be focused around one song: Three Little Birds by Bob Marley. The unit will integrate games, elements of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch, etc.), singing and playing instruments. The children will also learn to sing, play, improvise and compose alongside this song.

### **PE**



In year 3, we have PE on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon – please remember to send your child in wearing their PE kit on these days. Our Wednesday PE lesson this half term will be dance based. The children will learn and create movement based on our theme 'Eco-Warriors'! Our second PE lesson will be centred around the game 'handball'. The children will learn the rules and skills needed for the game, as well as the importance of being a good team player.

### **PSHE**



Our weekly PSHE sessions follow the Jigsaw curriculum. Our next unit is called 'Dreams and Goals'. The children will discuss their own dreams and goals, as well as listening to other peoples'. We will learn about overcoming obstacles to achieve our goals.

### **RE**



Our RE lessons will focus on miracles from the Bible. We will hear miracle stories from the Bible, discussing and writing about what they mean.

### **Enrichment**



As part of our topic, we are planning an immersion afternoon where the children will look at Greek buildings and the Ancient Greek language.

### **Homework Project**



Here are some activities that link to our topic. If your child completes one, please bring it in – we would love to see it!

- Create a poster to celebrate who you think was the most powerful Greek God.
- Write a story about a time when a Greek God was teleported to KPA.



### Skills Builder

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities



### Times Tables Rockstars



### Spelling Shed



### Rewards

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude. Points can be 'spent' on prizes periodically.



### Class information

**Class Teacher:** Miss Church

**Teaching Assistant:** Mrs Limehouse

Please remember to name your child's school jumper or cardigan.

We request that all children bring a named water bottle to school every day.

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts.

### Dates for the diary!

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Start of half term

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February – School closes to pupils

