



Year 3 spring Newsletter 2017



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to school. We wish you a happy new year and hope you had a restful break over the holidays. Below are some of the topics we will be looking at in the spring term.

English: English lessons take place every day. To begin with we will be looking at legends including: Saint George and the Dragon by Janice Pimm and the Beast With a Thousand Teeth by Terry Jones. Children will be exploring powerful language including adjectives, adverbs, similes and metaphors. Later in the term, we will be focusing on report writing; children will be retrieving and collating information about different countries and identifying the similarities and differences between the lives of children around the world. Grammar focuses this term include; punctuating direct speech ("Watch out," cried Amy.); adding suffixes (-ed, -ing, -ly); and prefixes (un- pre- sub-).

Reading: Children will read in class as part of Guided Reading. However, in order to make good progress it is very important that your child also reads with you at home. They will be able to take one book home each week to read. It is most helpful to question your child about the book to ensure that they understand what it means. They are able to change these books every week. They will only be given a new book if the old one is handed in first. Each Year 3 class will also be visiting the school library. They are able to borrow additional books using their library card.

Numeracy: Numeracy lessons take place every day. We will be consolidating topics from the autumn term including: numbers and place value (e.g. $123 = 100 + 20 + 3$); mental addition ($123 + 4 = ?$) and subtraction ($134 - 21 = ?$); multiplication ($\times 3 \times 4 \times 8$) and related division facts; shape work (recognising all 2D and most 3D shapes); measurement and problem solving. We will also be starting new topic including perimeter, angles and data handling (collecting and representing data in different formats including graphs). Thank you for all your support with times tables; please continue to practise at home.

Science: There will be one science lesson each week. This term we will be learning about forces and magnets. Please ask your child what they have been learning and if possible help them to find out more information from the library or on the Internet.

Computing: Computing lessons take place once a week; however there are plenty of opportunities for the children to use a variety of devices and programs across the curriculum. We will continue with online and offline coding (computer programming) and using apps including Explain Everything to publish our enquiry projects.

P.E: We have P.E. on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. The school employs specialist PE teachers to work alongside us in some lessons. Your child will need blue shorts or tracksuit trousers with a white t-shirt and plimsolls for indoors and appropriate trainers for outdoors. It is extremely important that your child always has their P.E. kit in school every day of the week. On Wednesdays we will be going to Aspire Leisure at Southfields Academy in Earlsfield to have a 60-minute swimming lesson. The children will be taught by a fully-qualified and highly-experienced swimming instructor and the Year 3 teachers and TAs will also be present.

Enquiry Curriculum: Enquiry lessons take place every week and include history, geography and art. Our topic this term is Islands. The children will be exploring islands around Europe to compare their climates, physical geography and human geography (including population, employment and imports/exports).

R.E: This term, we are focusing on Christianity, specifically The Bible and who was Jesus. Children will be looking at the importance of the Bible, looking at the different lessons Christians learn from the stories.

Music: The school employs additional staff from Wandsworth music services who will be teaching our lessons this term. We are with the recorder, drums and glockenspiel. **There will be another concert later in the term so you can share your child's achievements.**

PSHE: PSHE is taught every week. In these lessons children are given opportunities to discuss and learn about a wide variety of topics including listening skills, rights and responsibilities and teamwork. We will also be looking at British values (tolerance, rule of law, democracy, individual liberty and mutual respect).

Spellings: Your child will be given new spellings to take home every Friday. Please practise these with them and note any difficulties in their reading record. The most effective way of learning them is to go over the spellings each night for ten minutes using the 'look, cover, write, check method' on their sheet. The children will then be tested on the spellings every Friday morning.

Homework: We give online maths homework on a Friday through the Active Learn Primary website and expect it to be completed and returned by the following Tuesday.

If you have any questions or concerns you wish to discuss with me about your child's development and experiences at school, please feel free to make an appointment to come and see me. I am looking forward to the term ahead and hope that together we can make a positive contribution to your child's education.

Kindest regards,

Eliza Bates and Joseph Casey

Year 3 Class teachers