



# Year 3 Autumn Newsletter 2016



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. I would like to introduce myself as Miss Bates, Year 3 Yew class's teacher. I hope that you had a good summer and that your child feels refreshed and ready for the year ahead. I look forward to working with your child over the next year and hope that they enjoy the range of topics that we will be covering. Below is some information about some of the work we will be doing in Year 3 this term:

**Literacy:** English lessons take place every day. To begin with we will be looking at the book 'The tunnel' by Anthony Brown, focusing on story writing and language. Later in the term, we will be focussing on autobiographies; children will read famous examples and then write their own! As well as this, there will be a strong focus on grammar. We recap the basics -such as always using golden sentences- but quickly begin to look at more complex grammar, including using adverbs (e.g. he walked carefully) conjunctions (and, because and but) and when and how to use direct speech ("").

**Reading:** Children will read in class as part of guided reading. However, it is very important that your child also reads with you at home in order to make good progress. 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. Every two weeks the class visit the school library. They are able to borrow additional books using their library card.

**Numeracy:** Numeracy lessons take place every day. Some of the topics we will cover this term include: number 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 (telling the time to the nearest 5 minutes, knowing the days of the week and months of the year) and problem solving. Please practise recalling times tables at home and ask your children questions to help them become confident with them.

**Science:** There are two science lessons each week. During our first topic will be learning about rocks and soils (different types and how they can be grouped). This will be followed by light and shadow (different light sources, how we see and how shadows are formed). 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. Some of the programs we will be using this term scratch junior (building on coding skills by creating simple computer programmes) and book creator (using technology to write and publish their own information book).

**P.E:** We will be doing P.E. on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**. We continue to be fortunate to have specialist PE teachers working with us in school this year during some of the 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.

**Enquiry Curriculum:** Enquiry lessons take place twice a week and include history, geography and art. Our topic this term is The Romans and Celts. The children will be exploring what life was like during the Celtic and Roman times and learning about the Roman invasion of Britain. We will be visiting Butser Ancient farm towards the end of the term. You will receive more information about this trip nearer the time.

**R.E:** This term, we are focusing on Hinduism and religions in our neighbourhood, focusing largely on the similarities and differences between the religions. We will be visiting the Hindu Temple in September. You will receive more information about this trip very soon!

**Music:** We are very lucky to have trained musicians teaching our class this term. We will be learning how to play the recorder, drums and glockenspiel and hope to put on a concert for you at school so you can come and see what the children have learned!

**PSHE:** Circle time happens 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.

**Spellings:** Your child will be given new spellings every Friday to take home with them. 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 maths homework on a Friday and expect it to be completed and returned by the following Tuesday. Homework must be completed in their orange homework books or through the Abacus website (This will be explained in more detail at the 'Meet the Parents' meeting).

**Important date:**

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. May I also inform you that Year 3's meet the Teachers will be on **Monday 19th September at 3:30pm** in Year 3 Yew classroom. Both Miss Morgan (Oak Class teacher) and I look forward to seeing you there.

I am looking forward to the year ahead and hope that together we can make a positive contribution to your child's education.

Kindest regards,

Eliza Bates

Year 3 Yew Class Teacher