

# Spring 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year! I hope you have all had an enjoyable time over the Christmas holidays. I am looking forward to an exciting term packed full of new learning experiences.

## **Year 3's Topics and Themes**

This term's main topic will be based upon invaders and settlers of Britain. We will begin by looking at the Anglo Saxons; where they originated from, their way of living, the way in which they impacted upon Britain as we know it today, and why they chose to settle in Britain. To provide a 'sparkling start' to the new topic, the children will be taking part in an exciting, fun-filled workshop by a visiting group who are in role as Anglo-Saxons.

Many areas of this topic will be cross-curricular through English, Maths, Art, History, Geography and Computing. Our first Science topic this term will be concerned with animals including humans. We will be investigating the different parts of the body, what is needed for the body to be healthy and to grow, and the difference between the bodies of animals and humans.

Throughout the term we will be concentrating on improving our standards of presentation, spelling and the use of language. The children will also be encouraged to read a wide range of texts, both to improve their reading fluency and also for pleasure! I would be grateful if you would continue reading with your child for enjoyment and to ensure they are reading with understanding and fluency.

### **Practical Information**

The classroom door will be opened at 8.50am where the children can access an early morning activity which involves practising important basic skills such as mental arithmetic and spelling. Registers are taken at 9.00am. We feel that it is important for children to drink water throughout the day. Therefore, please could children bring in labeled bottles of water with a secure lid each day. Please try and make sure that all your child's clothes are clearly labeled with their name. Any lost property can then be easily identified.

### **Schools Direct Associate Teacher**

As you know, Mr Rogers has been working with us since September and has become a valued member of our team. As part of his course and progress towards becoming a qualified teacher, he is due to leave us on Thursday 18th January. During this time, he will complete two other placements at different schools before returning to us later on in May. Mr Rogers will be missed and I am sure the children will look forward to his return.

### **Accelerated Reader**

As you know, your child can bring an Accelerated Reader book home with them to read with you or independently at their leisure. They may also access the associated quiz through our website (log-in details in planners) when they have finished the book. (Please note, quizzes are only available during the week). If your child reads a book at home but is unable to access the quiz then they will have the opportunity to do so back at school. We will be carrying out our 'Star Reading' assessment during the first couple of weeks back which will inform the level of books that they can choose from. This information is on a label stuck on the inside cover of their planner.

### **PE**

PE lessons will take place on Thursdays and Fridays. Please ensure that your child has their kit in school throughout the week and tracksuits may be sent in when the

weather is cold. Children will be reminded to send their PE kit home regularly for washing. Children should not wear any jewellery during these lessons and all earrings must be either taken out or covered with micro-pore tape which they should bring into school along with their PE kit.

### Homework

- Guided reading homework will be sent home on the day of your child's guided reading session (this may have changed - your child will be able to tell you their new day and it will be written in their planner) and is due in to be marked one week from this day.
- Spellings will be sent home on a Monday and will be tested on a Friday (A suggested activity will also be sent home to help your child practise their spellings in different ways).
- MyMaths homework will be posted online on Fridays and is due in by the following Friday.
- **(Please note - Guided Reading and spelling homework will recommence during the second week back - the week beginning Monday 15th January).**

If your child experiences any problems with their homework, they can always come and speak to me and I will be happy to help.

It is also recommended that children practise their times tables at home, along with spellings off the Year 1/2 or 3/4 word list.

My door is always open before and after school; please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bailey

## The Anglo Saxons



**English:** We will begin to look at more complex sentence level skills as well as continuing with the basic skills including punctuating our sentences correctly and making sure that they are grammatically accurate and make sense for the reader. Children will begin to use more punctuation such as inverted commas and commas to separate clauses. Using a class text, the children will write a number of different pieces using a range of genres such as re-tells, setting/character descriptions, writing for suspense and a non-chronological report.

**Maths:** We will continue to work on our times tables. Children will learn both the multiplication number sentence and the associated division number sentence to reinforce the link between the two concepts. Number bonds and other facts will also be rehearsed such as bonds to 20 and 100. The children will be learning how to use written methods for division before re-visiting some place value learning from earlier in the term. Our learning will then include other concepts such as 3D shapes, fractions, statistics and time. For all of the different concepts, the children will be expected to apply their learning to different problems by using their reasoning skills and mathematical fluency.

**Science:** Our first topic this term will be Animals including Humans where the children will look closely at what a balanced diet consists of and learn about the human body in more detail.

**History:** Our focus for the term is Anglo Saxons.

**Geography:** We will be looking at the countries of the UK and investigate where the Saxons came from. We will also look at the different kingdoms of the Anglo Saxons.

**Computing:** Children will continue to use the computer in different ways to present their learning. They will use Microsoft Excel to create a table and graph and they will create their own music using an internet program. Finally, we will continue to work on our coding skills by introducing repeat commands and applying them to different programs.

**French:** We will continue to be able to talk about ourselves by learning how to say our age and our birthday. We will also learn days of the week, months of the year and the colours.

**PE:** Our focus will be gymnastics, football and dodge ball.

**Music:** The children will be creating their own music using a Computer program.

**RE:** Our focus will be learning about Islam.

**Art:** We will be looking at the work of Van Gogh and re-creating one of his paintings using a variety of different techniques.

**DT:** Our focus is food and we will be designing and making our own pizzas.

