**Summer Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely break and Easter. I am really looking forward to this term which is going to be packed with lots of new learning and exciting experiences!

**Year 3’s topics and themes**

This term we will be looking at Britain’s next set of invaders and settlers, the Vikings. We will begin by looking at the Vikings; where they originated from, their way of living and the way in which the way they established trade links has had an impact upon Britain. As a geography focus, we will look at the land use of the Viking origin countries and how this links with why they chose to settle in Britain. We will look at textiles for art, creating a cross stitch design for the sails of the long ships we will create for D and T.

Our main text will be Demolition Man by Phil Earle. We will also complete some writing linked to our Viking topic.



**Practical Information**

The classroom door will be opened at 8.50am where the children can access an early morning activity which provides an opportunity to practise key skills such as spellings, handwriting and Maths calculations. Registers are taken at 9.00am.

**PE**

PE lessons are on Thursdays and Fridays. Please ensure that your child has their kit in school throughout the week. They will be sent home for washing as needed. Children should have their hair tied back and all earrings must be either taken out or covered with micro-pore tape.

After May half term, the children will also take part in swimming lessons at Alsager Leisure Centre as part of their PE lessons. Please see separate letter for more details.

**Homework**

Guided reading homework will be sent home on the day of your child’s guided reading session - this may have changed from last term so please check your child's planner. Homework is due in to be marked one week from this day. Sometimes, the homework may be to complete the AR quiz associated with the book. This can be accessed through the school website. Children can also access AR quizzes at school during Guided Reading sessions.

Spellings will be sent home with a suggested activity on a Monday and will be tested on a Friday.

MyMaths homework will be posted online on Fridays and is due in by the following Friday. The children have been reminded how to access these activities.

If your child has any problems with their homework then they can always come and speak to me or there is a homework club supervised by a member of staff at lunchtimes.

**Spellings and Times tables**

We have been really focusing on improving both our spellings and times tables during the Spring term. The children are very enthused towards this and some have expressed that they would like to continue their learning at home.

When the Government changed the curriculum back in 2014, they published a list of spellings that they think children should be able to spell at different milestones throughout their education, eg, end of Key Stage 1 and end of Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4). The children were tested on these words earlier in the week and they will be given the list back with those they got wrong in green. This means that they can focus on practising those for the next test. The list of spellings will be sent home within the first few weeks back for the children to practise as they please. I recommend choosing 3-4 spellings to focus on and practise at any one time. Just spending 5 minutes each day practising spelling can really have a huge impact on their learning and progress.

Times tables are a huge part of the Maths curriculum and as the children progress through Key Stage 2, they become increasingly more important and essential for a wide range of Mathematical skills. There are a variety of different ways that the children can learn their tables such as chanting, writing them down and using online games such as Times Table Rockstars. The children know which times table they need to work on and spending just 5 minutes on them each day will have a huge impact on their learning. Times tables will be tested at 2-3 weekly intervals.

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

I look forward to another happy and successful term. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bailey