

Class 3 Autumn Newsletter

A warm welcome to class 3, I hope that you have all had a lovely summer break. This newsletter aims to outline the curriculum for the autumn term. If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact me either in person, via email, by phone through the office or we have our open evening on 5th October.

Literacy: During our literacy lessons, children will be studying a range of different types of text including, poems, narratives, non-fiction texts, diary entries, letters, non-chronological reports and instructions. We will be revising the use of capital letters, full stops, exclamation marks and question marks, as well as learning about the use of inverted commas to show direct speech and commas and apostrophes for different purposes. The children will expand their knowledge of grammar by revising nouns, adjectives, adverbs and conjunctions, in addition to developing their use of prepositions and different sentence structures. Once a week the children will have a guided reading lesson, focused on improving each child's independent reading skills and to encourage children's reading for meaning and comprehension skills. Each day, the children will have a lesson dedicated to either handwriting or spelling; handwriting lessons will focus on improving children's cursive skills, through developing their letter sizes, shapes and joins. Spelling lessons will focus on learning different spelling patterns, including prefixes and suffixes, such as '-ing', '-es', 'un-' and 'dis-', as well as homophones and plurals. Each week, children will be tested on commonly misspelled words, these words will be given to the children each Friday and the children have a week to practice their spellings at home, before being tested on the following Friday afternoon.

Maths: In maths this term, children will be developing their understanding of place value and how each digit's position within a number affects its value. We will be comparing and ordering numbers up to 1000 as well as reading and writing numbers in both numerals and in words. Children will be developing mental strategies to add, subtract, multiply and divide to solve simple number problems, at speed. They will also progress to learn and use formal written methods of calculations to solve more complex problems. Children will also learn about the law of inverse, as a method to check their own answers in maths. We will be revising the 2, 5 and 10 times tables learnt in KS1 and will progress on to learning the 3, 4 and 8 times tables, to improve speed and fluency when solving maths problems. Throughout the term, children will be developing their problem-solving skills using a variety of processes, in both mental and practical scenarios, where children will begin to reason their answers. It will be beneficial for children to be practicing their times tables, in and out of order, and rehearsing their addition and subtraction facts at home, so that they can recall them at speed to increase their fluency and efficiency in maths.

Science: This term's science learning will cover three units: light and shadows; forces and magnets; and friction. In our first unit, we will be learning how light travels and how shadows are created and can be manipulated. Our forces and magnets unit will allow us to experiment with making objects move using magnetic attraction and repulsion, as well as learning about the north and south poles of a magnet. In our final unit, we will be exploring and comparing how objects move on different surfaces and how to increase or decrease an object's speed of movement through altering the level of friction on surfaces.

Topic: 'Time Travellers' is our topic for this term, the children will be learning about three major periods in history: the Prehistoric era; the Mayan civilisation; and the Ancient Greeks. We will be applying geographic skills by using maps to locate and study different areas, as well as learning how the British environment was changed with the introduction of farming. We will be creating our own cave paintings in Art and Design. In D&T, we will be using natural materials to dye fabrics as well as planning, designing and creating Icarus' wings (from Greek mythology). In history, we will be learning about changes in Britain during the Stone, Bronze and Iron ages, including how people lived and provided food for themselves. We will also be learning about the different beliefs that people had during these periods, through studying Greek Gods and Goddesses and rituals linked to Stonehenge.

Computing: This term children will be learning about internet safety and how to efficiently use search engines to find information, which they will learn to present to an audience, using a mixture of text, graphics and sounds. We will also be developing our computer skills to save and retrieve work on the internet, the school network and individual devices.

PE: The children will be taking part in two PE lessons each week; one will take place on Friday afternoons in the gymnastics hall, focusing on developing gymnastics and netball. The second lesson each week, on Wednesday mornings, will be an outdoor games lesson led by sports coaches, which will be focused on learning tennis and orienteering skills.

RE: The children will be exploring rules for living that are found in sacred writings and teaching and considering the impact that these teachings have on the lives of believers. Later in the term, we will be comparing the use of symbols, actions and gestures used in worship by different communities.

French: During French, children will be focusing on two units: portraits and pocket money. In the 'portraits' unit, children will be learning about parts of the body, colours and descriptions of people. The 'pocket money' unit will see the children expressing opinions about food and toys, recalling simple prices and the numbers from one to ten.

Music: Children will be taking part in 'Rock It' lessons on Tuesdays, which will give the children an exciting opportunity to play as part of a class band, learning how to play instruments including keyboards, glockenspiels, melodicas or drums. Mrs Baugh will allocate the instruments for the children after a few introductory lessons.

Homework: Each Friday, your child will be given a piece of either Literacy or Numeracy homework this will be recorded in their homework diary and should be handed in to class on the following Wednesday. If your child has found a piece of work particularly difficult, then please make a note in their diary and I will then follow this up at school. It would also be beneficial for each child to read at least three times a week at home, this will support the reading that takes place in school. Please note any reading they do at home, in their reading record book.

If you do wish to discuss anything further then please do not hesitate to see me before or after school, or to contact me via the school office or directly on staff20@croft.staffs.sch.uk.

Miss Tucker