



Class 3 Autumn Newsletter



Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 3! It sounds like the children have all had a lovely summer holiday and I am pleased to say that they have all started Year 3 with enthusiasm. I am delighted to be back teaching the children but obviously things are a little different now! This newsletter is to inform you of the different things taking place this term and the routines of the class. If you have any queries based on the information in the newsletter then please do not hesitate to contact me via email - staff15@croft.staffs.sch.uk.



Maths: Class 3 have a maths lesson every day and this term the children will be looking at place value and working with numbers up to 1000. They will be developing their understanding of addition and subtraction facts and mental and written calculations for these operations. We will be revising our 2, 5 and 10 times tables and will begin to learn our 3, 4 and 8's. In geometry they will be focusing on the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and learning about horizontal, vertical, parallel and perpendicular lines. As the term progresses, the children will be using and applying their skills to recognise and explain patterns and relationships in numbers and problems solving using different methods that we have learnt. Alternate weeks the children will be given maths homework, but they will also be given weekly tables to practice ready for a tables test on Fridays. The tables that they are going to be tested on, will be recorded in their homework diaries each week. Please encourage your child to access TT Rockstars at home, as this is a fun way to practice their tables independently and a great way to earn house points! More details on how to log in and access TT Rockstars at home will follow.



Literacy: Our first unit is based on the text 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. The children will be using the structure of this text to write their own version of the day they ended up in the Stone Age. Linked to the texts that they cover this year, we look in detail at complex sentences, direct speech, personification and feeling sentences. Our second unit is a poetry unit where the class will explore figurative language and then compose their own poem about Autumn. Within each unit the children will experience editing and get the opportunity to improve their spelling, grammar and punctuation skills. Each week we have spelling lessons where we focus on learning different spelling patterns. We will revise some of the prefixes from Year 2 such as 'in' and 'dis' and then we will move onto explore homophone such as where and wear. Each week the children will complete a reading lesson where they read either with an adult, in a group or independently and then complete a reading task. We begin the Autumn term by exploring a text call 'How to Skin a Bear' which I know they all will enjoy. Each Friday the children will be given a list of spellings to learn for the following Thursday, these will be based on the words that we have been practicing in school such as adding mis and re prefix, contractions and eigh, aigh and ey. Please encourage your child to practice them at home so that they can earn house points on test day. They will be tested on a Thursday and results reported on a Friday in the diaries. All children will begin to learn cursive handwriting with regular handwriting lessons throughout the week and on occasions extra handwriting sheets may be sent home for homework.



Science: Our first Science topic is Light, and the children will be exploring how light travels in straight lines and is able to reflect off different surfaces. We will then move onto exploring Rocks and Soils. During this topic they will be identifying the different types of rocks and testing their durability, amongst other practical tasks. In both units we will be carrying out a range of practical experiments, where the children will work in groups using a variety of equipment.



Topic: 'Time Travellers' is the name of our topic for this term. We will focus on two key periods of history; the Prehistoric Era and the Ancient Greeks. Through our topic we will apply Geography skills using UK and world maps to locate areas that were inhabited by both groups of people and we will look at how the British environment was changed by the introduction of farming. In History we will learn about changes in Britain throughout the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron ages discussing the differences between them. We will also be learning about the Ancient Greek Olympics and how they

compare to the modern Olympics. In Art and Design, we will create our own cave paintings and in Design and Technology we will be creating Stone Age weapons and jewellery. This is a super topic, and one that the children thoroughly enjoy.



Computing: This term we will be covering three different topics in computing: coding, online safety and spreadsheets. ICT will be taught as a stand-alone subject, but also embedded into other lessons throughout the week. We use Purple Mash to teach our Computing Curriculum, which the children are now very confident in using. They will also be using QR codes to help them in their research and they will begin to improve their independent research skills using the internet.



PE: The children will take part in two PE lessons per week; one fitness lesson in the hall or outside on a Tuesday afternoon with myself and one outdoor lesson with Mr Hayes on a Wednesday morning. In our outdoor Games lessons the children will be developing the skills needed for invasion games and then they will move onto outdoor education style activities. We ask that all the children come to school on a **Tuesday and a Wednesday** in black or blue shorts or jogging bottoms, a plain white t-shirt and their school jumper or cardigan. They will also need suitable trainers. Can I please ask that no jewellery is worn on either of those days, including earrings as no child can do PE with earrings in. On some weeks, the children will have an extra PE lesson on a Wednesday afternoon where the children will be working on Team Games.



RE: Mrs Stanley will be teaching Class 3 RE this term and they will be exploring rules for living that are found in sacred writings and teachings. They will consider the impact that these teachings have on the lives of believers. Later in the term, they will move onto compare and contrast the use of symbols, actions and gestures used in worship by different communities. In PSHE this term the class will be learning about how they can make a positive contribution to our school and learning about the role of school council.



French: Miss Paris will teach the children French on a Thursday afternoon. They will be introduced to simple French phrases to greet people and be taught how to respond to simple questions such as 'what is your name?'

Music: Class 3 will be taught Music by Mrs Baugh on a Thursday afternoon - we call these 'Rock-It' lessons. In Key Stage 2, they learn to play as part of our 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 lessons and they will be building on the skills they learned with Mrs Smith in Year 2. Hopefully you will be able to join us for an assembly later in the year to see the progress made by the children.



Homework: Each Friday your child will be given a piece of either Numeracy or Literacy work to be completed by the following Tuesday. They will record this in their homework diary which they will be provided with. If your child found a piece of work difficult, then please make a note of it in the homework diary. All homework diaries must be in school on Fridays in order to record the homework in. We will aim to listen to your child read at least, once a week in school. It would be beneficial for each child to read at least three to five times a week at home, as this will support the reading which takes place in school. Please could you make a note of any reading they do at home in their reading record book and if your child needs their book changing, then they should place it in the appropriate box in the classroom in the morning, and we will change it during the day. We do not change books on set days but when they have been completed. The children need to bring their book into school each day as we have Mrs Lang, a volunteer, that is coming into school to read with the children. The children have also been sent home with their Zapper. Please follow the instructions on the guidance provided and ask the children to bring their sheet in when they have completed at home. We do have a treat box for the children to access when they achieve their zapper! Hopefully this will be extra motivating.

I am delighted to be working with and teaching your children again and also working with you, their parents. You all know me so please feel free to get in touch via email or on the phone. It is always better to deal with any concerns straight away, so please let me know. As you know, I will be welcoming the children into school every morning so any small things I need to know you can also let me know on the door.

If you do wish to discuss anything further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

Mrs S Richards

