

## YEAR 3 TERM 1 – 2009/10

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year Three. We hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We are looking forward to working with your children, and we hope to make the move to a new key stage as smooth as possible.

### 3D

Saturday	-	Music / French
Sunday	-	ICT / Choral
Monday-	-	PE / French
Tuesday	-	Swimming / Library
Wednesday	-	PE

### 3E

Saturday	-	French / Music / Library
Sunday	-	Choral
Monday	-	PE / French
Tuesday	-	Swimming / ICT
Wednesday	-	PE

### 3K

Saturday	-	Music / French
Sunday	-	Library / Choral
Monday	-	PE
Tuesday	-	ICT / Swimming
Wednesday	-	PE / French

## CURRICULUM

### Literacy

As in the U.K. we will be following the Primary strategy. This is a very structured programme which teaches: spelling strategies, spelling conventions and rules, vocabulary, grammatical awareness, sentence construction and punctuation, reading comprehension and writing composition using both fiction and non-fiction texts. This term focuses on:

- Stories in familiar settings
- Dialogues and plays
- Non-fiction: reports
- Shape poetry and calligrams

In line with the strategy, reading skills will be developed during guided reading sessions. These are concentrated, half hour sessions where we work with a small group of children, hearing them read aloud, discussing and drawing attention to vocabulary, plot, punctuation and so on. We will introduce this gradually, once each child's individual reading programme has been established.

There will also be opportunities to develop cross-curricular speaking and listening and drama skills.

### **Numeracy**

The numeracy framework also forms part of the Primary Strategy. It is another carefully structured programme which covers all aspects of numeracy including:

- Place value
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Mental calculation strategies
- Money and 'real life' problems
- Fractions
- Handling data
- Shape and space
- Measures (length, weight, time, capacity)

These topics are revisited regularly throughout the year to enable revision and consolidation.

### **Science**

We have two topics this term. We begin with 'Teeth and Food' followed by 'Plants and Growing'. During the second topic the children will use an investigative approach to find out about conditions for healthy plant growth.

### **Humanities**

Our Humanities topic is the Ancient Egyptians. The geography element of the topic includes studying the location of Egypt, rivers, the importance of the Nile and making comparisons between Egypt and other localities. The history element provides the children with the opportunity to develop their enquiry skills by studying evidence left by the Ancient Egyptians. Areas will include: everyday life, farming, the pharaohs and cultural beliefs.

### **Art**

In addition to regular opportunities to develop their drawing skills, the children will study Egyptian art. They will design and create an Egyptian collar to wear on Egyptian Day.

### **Design Technology (DT)**

Our project is linked to the science topic 'Teeth and Food'. It has a graphics and packaging focus. After studying toothpaste packets the children will design and make their own.

## **SPECIALIST SUBJECTS**

### **ICT**

This term children will be taught how to manipulate text and graphics using the format functions in a desktop publishing program. Later in the term children will be collecting data on their peers for use in the data-handling unit of work.

### **Music**

This is a busy term for Year Three. They will cover one main unit of work called 'Exploring Rhythmic Patterns'. This develops the children's ability to create simple rhythmic patterns and perform them rhythmically. The children will be introduced to standard notation to prepare them for term two when they will be learning to play the recorder.

In term three the children will be taking part in the choral competition 'Last Choir Standing'. Each year group choir will learn songs of varying difficulty and will be judged against one another. The choir with the highest points will win the coveted 'Last Choir Standing' trophy, as well as a medal. As well as having a great time singing together, the children last year helped to raise RO 1,000 for charity. I'm hoping it will be an exciting event again this year and the children will be working hard throughout the year to improve their singing skills. There will be a series of lessons at the beginning of this term to capture their enthusiasm and identify the best features of choral singing. Watch this space for the date and time of this event!

Towards the end of the term they will take part in some short assessment activities as well as prepare for the Carols by Candlelight Concert on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **French**

Having begun French in Year Two, Year Three will have two lessons per week, each of 30 minutes. They will encounter the recommended topics from the National Curriculum Framework for MFL using the highly acclaimed interactive program called 'Rigolo' which will take them right through the next four years of French. All four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking are covered and this will be supplemented with games, songs and movement to engage all styles of learner. Topics for this term are 'Bonjour' in which they learn about greetings and some basic nouns, and 'En Classe' which teaches classroom objects and instructions, colours and saying your age.

## **PE**

The children will have two, one hour PE Lessons this year. The children come to PE as a whole year group and are taught each of the activities in their individual classes, by three members of staff. (one on each activity) Each block of activity will last for six weeks including an assessment. The activities for this term and the first part of term two will be, Athletics (to prepare for Sports Day) Striking and Fielding Games and Gymnastics. (Lesson 1 on a rotation basis) and Dance, Touch Rugby and Netball based skills, using Bench Ball as the game. (Lesson 2 on a rotation basis)

## **S.E.A.L. (Social, Emotional, Aspects of Learning)**

This term in CPSHE the children explore two main themes entitled 'New beginnings' and 'Getting on and falling out.' The first theme offers children the opportunity to see themselves as valued individuals and to contribute to shaping a welcoming, safe and fair learning community for all. Throughout the theme, children explore feelings of happiness and excitement, sadness, anxiety and fearfulness, and learn shared models for calming down and problem solving.

In the second half of the term we will be extending the work on 'New beginnings' and focusing on developing the social skills of friendship, working well together in a group, managing anger and resolving conflict.

Throughout the term we celebrate the children's achievements both in and out of school through our CLASSY boards. Any exams grades, certificates or medals that your children receive for efforts outside of school are a great addition, so please feel free to send them in.

## **Communication**

We value the opportunity to talk to parents. If you do have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher by writing a note in the personal organiser. We will answer you in writing or arrange a time to meet if necessary. It helps where possible to arrange a meeting time in advance as we have staff meetings on several days after school.

Please get in touch with your class teacher if you would be prepared to help in school. There are a wide range of opportunities! We would love to hear from anyone who is willing to give up a regular amount of time each week to support guided reading sessions. We would also like occasional help with art and design technology lessons. Please let us know if you have particular skills and interests which you would be willing to share with the children. Please direct any social or school event queries to your class links. Any curriculum or pastoral issues, direct to your class teacher or Year Leader.

## **HOMEWORK**

One of the children's concerns is clearly the introduction of homework! We will introduce it gradually over the course of this term.

1. To begin with, the children should continue with the daily reading they have been used to doing in Key Stage One. Regular reading is vitally important and we want to be certain that this remains a part of the children's routine. There is a space in their personal organisers for the children to record the book title, the page they have reached in their reading, and for you to comment.
2. In the fourth week of term, after Eid, we will introduce spelling homework. Spellings will be handed out on Saturdays, and the children should spend ten minutes each day learning the spelling rules in preparation for a regular weekly spelling test on a Wednesday morning. We will follow a similar format as Year Two and spelling sentences will be a requirement to help reinforce spelling strategies and sentence construction.
3. Maths 'Passport' homework will be introduced in the fifth week of term. This will be basic mental maths strategies that require regular practice and again will consist of approximately ten minutes homework each day.

## **Equipment**

In Year Three we will provide all the pencils, crayons, glue, scissors and stationery your child will require at school, although they will obviously need rulers, pencils and scissors at home to complete their homework. They do not need to bring pencil cases to school.

## **Tuck Shop**

The tuck shop is open to children in Year Three for the first 10 minutes of first break on a daily basis. This facility is intended to supplement your child's lunchbox and we would ask for your support in monitoring the amount of money brought in to spend. Thank you.

## **Diary Dates**

15<sup>th</sup> September – Primary Meet and Greet Evening – (Main Hall and then classrooms)

27<sup>th</sup> September – Grandparents' Day

1<sup>st</sup> Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2) 2.30pm – 5.00pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Parent / Teacher Consultations (KS1 & KS2) 4.00pm – 6.30pm

15<sup>th</sup> November - Year 3 Egyptian Day

5<sup>h</sup> Dec – Primary Carol Concert

Year Three Egyptian Day: A letter will be going out nearer the time, to tell you more about this event.

We hope that you find the information contained in this booklet useful and look forward to a very successful term.

Mr Edwards (Year Leader)

Mrs Detnon

Mrs Kidman