

Monday 14th September 2015

Dear Parents,

Class 3 Newsletter

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you all enjoyed a restful holiday and managed to spend some quality time together as a family. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Seren who has joined our class this term. Seren has moved to the village with her family and already made lots of friends! I have been pleased to see all the children settling in well over the past week, particularly the year threes who have adapted brilliantly to the new demands of key stage 2.

Expectations

We have a clear routine running in class three and the children have a good understanding of their expectations. They have worked together to agree five special rules that they will always aim to fulfill in Class 3, these are:

1. To think positively
2. To listen carefully
3. To work together
4. To use inside voices
5. To try our best

The children sit in 'table teams' and are rewarded with golden coins for demonstrating these positive behaviours and for working effectively together. Our winning table each week is then given the privilege of using our special *Horrible Histories* pencils for a whole week! We also have a very special golden star, which is attached to our Star of the Week's chair to celebrate their excellent achievement. The children have been enjoying these systems and are working exceptionally hard to be the best that they can be.

Timetable

Please find attached a copy of our class timetable for the term. There is always the possibility of change but this is what we aim to cover each week. As you will see, the day begins with *Response Time*, during which the children respond to marking, make corrections to their work and complete extra challenges that have been set to further their learning. They then complete Rainbow Maths each day – this challenge continually encourages the children to improve and quicken their mathematical thinking which is an invaluable skill both inside and out of the classroom. The children progress at their own pace and are encouraged to make small improvements each day. Please find a sample sheet attached and an explanation of the levels that the children will be working through over the year.

You will notice on the timetable that we have three Topic lessons, ensuring that our Roman theme is fully embedded and used effectively as a tool to engage the children. The topic will also be evident through other areas of the curriculum such as English when we will be exploring Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and Computing when we will be programming Roman battle scenes using *Scratch* software.

Please also note that PE will be taking place every Tuesday and Friday. The children will require an outdoor PE kit on Wednesdays and an indoor PE kit for Superstars on a Friday. In addition, they will also need to remember their PE kit for any sports clubs that they decide to take up.

Reading

The children have all been given a reading book appropriate for their level, a Reading Record and a plastic folder to keep them both safe. The children are required to bring these folders to school each day and place them in the Reading Tray. They are also expected to take them home each night and read a minimum of four times during the week – please ensure these sessions are logged by yourselves in the appropriate boxes. We will start a new page in their Reading Record each week so that we can easily track the progress being made both at home and in school. In addition to home reading, the children will also read with either myself or Mrs Avis once a week and take part in a Group Reading session with Mrs Tiley. During this group session, their understanding of topic-related texts is fully challenged and assessed. Your child's Reading Record will be stamped each time they complete a Group Reading session.

Mrs Avis

The shared teaching is working well with Mrs Avis and myself. The daily routine and behaviour expectations are all being maintained throughout the week and we are regularly meeting to discuss the children's progress and plan their next steps. Mrs Avis is teaching the *Data Handling* aspect of the Maths Curriculum through a special afternoon Maths session. This opportunity enables the children to enjoy practical Maths and to develop a clear understanding of its relevancy in real life situations.

New Classroom

The classroom has undergone quite a transformation over the Summer with newly painted walls and lovely new furniture. The children are enjoying their new calming learning environment – it is certainly contributing to our hard working and positive ethos in Class 3. Please pop in with your child after school one day and ask them for a guided tour!

Extra Support

During the afternoons, we have a rigorous intervention timetable in place, which will be starting this week. These interventions aim to provide particular children with the boost that they need in order to achieve their best. Such support includes reading comprehension, handwriting to support spelling and a maths confidence booster! We have selected the children that we feel would benefit from these sessions and look forward to seeing the improvements over the coming weeks. For those children requiring a little extra support, My Plan Meetings will be timetabled at the start of October, once the children have had sufficient time to settle into their new year groups.

It has been lovely to touch base with many of you over the past week and to hear about your busy summer holidays. I hope to chat with more of you over the next few weeks and can be found on the playground every Wednesday morning, before school. Please don't hesitate to pop in and see me after school though to discuss any worries or just to have a natter! I will be hosting an information evening for Class 3 parents on Tuesday 29th September at 5pm to talk through 'life in Class 3' and answer any questions that you may have.

Kind regards,

Mrs Hannah Saunders
Deputy Headteacher

RAINBOW MATHS

- Each morning, we practise our mental maths skills with Rainbow Maths.
- Your child must correctly answer all 25 questions within 3 minutes every day for a week to move up to the next level!
- It's pretty tough so they are allowed up to 3 mistakes.
- Regular practise at home would be really helpful – quick and accurate mental maths skills are so important and a great tool to support their classwork.
- There is a bank of practice sheets for in the classroom, please feel free to pop in and take one.
- We will celebrate when your child has passed a level of Rainbow Maths with a special certificate so keep an eye out for one coming home!
- Below is an overview of the levels that the children will be striving to achieve:

ELEMENTS STAGES Addition and Subtraction	FIRE (1)
	AIR (2)
	EARTH (3)
	WATER (4)
RAINBOW STAGES Multiplication and Division	RED (5)
	ORANGE (6)
	YELLOW (7)
	GREEN (8)
	BLUE (9)
	INDIGO (10)
	VIOLET (11)
AWARD STAGES Division and Decimals	BRONZE (12)
	SILVER (13)
	GOLD (14)
	PLATINUM (15)
	KRYPTONITE (16)

Class 3's Timetable - Autumn 2015

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:50-9:05	Response Time	Response Time	Response Time	Response Time	Response Time
9:05-9:15	Rainbow Maths	Rainbow Maths	Rainbow Maths	Rainbow Maths	Rainbow Maths
9:15-10:10	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	RE
10:10-10:30	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship	Worship
10:30-10:45	Play	Play	Play	Play	Play
10:45-11:00	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spanish
11:00-12:00	English	English	English	English	Science
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00-1:30	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
1:30-2:15	Topic: Discovery	PE	Topic: Expression	Topic: Creativity	Data Handling
2:15-3:00		Computing	PSHE	Music	Superstars
3:00-3:15	Story	Story	Story	Story	Spanish