

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017



YEAR 3



Happy New Year! Don't forget to visit our web site, to receive all our latest updates. If you have any questions please feel free to call in and see me either before or after school. Here is a summary of the curriculum we follow in the Spring term in Year 3.

Mrs S Kinsella

Literacy

As part of their **spelling and vocabulary work**, the children will continue to learn how to use dictionaries and thesauruses independently.

They will investigate and learn about homophones (words which are pronounced the same but are spelt in different ways and have different meanings); words with the 'k' sound spelt 'ch'; and words with the 'sh' sound spelt 'ch'. They will learn key words from the year 3 spelling list.

Regular practice of their weekly spelling lists using the "look, say, cover, write, check" strategy will help them secure these spelling patterns.

Spellings lists are sent home on a Monday and the spelling test is held the following Monday.

The children will continue to learn to recognise and spell the past tense of both regular and irregular verbs. They will be expected to use verb tenses with increasing accuracy in their own writing, particularly present and past tenses.

In **handwriting**, the children will begin to use cursive script in all their written work, forming and joining letters accurately. As the term progresses, the children will be encouraged to increase the amount of work written in a cursive script.



In **fiction composition** the children will read, discuss and write, using elements of the **Talk for Writing** process. They will build on their vocabulary for descriptive writing. They will study narrative poetry, traditional tales such as fairy tales, dialogue and play scripts. In **non fiction composition** the children will read and write recounts and explanations.

As the literacy lessons focus on both reading and writing, the teachers will be hearing the children read in guided reading sessions. These will focus on **teaching** aspects of **reading and comprehension**, not just listening to them read. As a consequence, it is of utmost importance that you continue to follow-up this type of reading practice at home for 10 to 15 minutes each night, using the home reading books. Please sign the reading diary on the correct day to show this has been completed. The children need questioning on the content of their texts and unfamiliar vocabulary should be explained.

The children's targets this term will be:

- to improve the quality of their written work by being able to produce a piece of independent writing, correctly punctuated throughout and containing a wide range of verbs, adjectives and adverbs.
- to read text, and answer questions about that text, using the words from the text itself.
- to use a cursive handwriting style, forming and joining letters accurately.

In **grammar and punctuation** study, the children will extend their use of the tools of punctuation in both reading and writing. They will be expected to use question marks and exclamation marks appropriately in their own writing.

They will be expected to consistently demarcate each sentence with a full stop and the start of a new one with a capital letter accurately and to use commas to separate items in a list.

The children will look at the use of speech marks to mark the beginning and ending of dialogue. They will also use paragraphs with greater consistency and learn the technical names for grammar words.

Glossary of Terms

Verbs - words to show actions or states of being or having.

Adjectives – words which enhance or change the meaning of a noun or a pronoun.

Adverbs - words that add information, usually to a verb, and can tell how, when or where something happens.
An adverb can modify any word except a noun or a pronoun.

Prefixes - letters or groups of letters which are added to the beginning of a root word to change its meaning. This forms a new word.

In **Numeracy** oral and mental work will feature strongly in each lesson. The children will be building on the work covered last term. They will continue to work on number structure to 1000. This will include using all four mathematical rules.

Our '**Big Maths**' strategy is the start of every lesson (approx.20mins). This involves reinforcing basic number facts the children need throughout their school life.

This term our Learn Its are based on the 4 times table. These facts are practised each lesson and every Friday the class complete the "Beat That Challenge"— a timed test.

The Big Maths strategy is centred on an **understanding** of Maths, both written, practical and oral.

The children will recognise that **division** is inverse to multiplication and, with this knowledge, be able to check their own work. They will use their knowledge of tables to help with division, for example, $8 \times 6 = 48$, $48 \div 6 = 8$, $48 \div 8 = 6$.

Practice at home in the use of analogue and digital clocks will be of benefit to the children as they complete work on **measure and time**, including problems. They will work with kilograms and grams. They will be expected to read scales correctly. They will add and subtract amounts of money to give change.

VERB TENSES



In **Shape and Space** the children will begin to recognise angles as a property of shape and associate angles with turning. They will make and use right-angled turns.

Having covered **fractions**, such as $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$, in the autumn term, the children will progress onto the recognition of $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{5}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$. They will begin to recognise simple equivalent fractions, for example, $\frac{5}{10}$ is equivalent to $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{5}{5}$ is equivalent to 1 whole. They will also compare and order fractions.

The children will be expected to solve money problems using their knowledge of **addition** and **subtraction**, for example to add and subtract pounds and pence. They should be able to explain and record their methods.

The children's target will be to continue to improve their speed and accuracy in mental and oral tests, focussing on the four main operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.



Towards the end of the term **handling data** will be the focus, whereby the children will collect data and solve problems by organising and interpreting this data in bar charts.

Homework

Homework will be sent to consolidate or extend topics covered in class. The children may also be asked to bring something in to school. There will be a choice of tasks to complete for the term. It is advisable to complete at least one piece per week. The task may involve some research. Please support your child with their homework and encourage them to work independently.

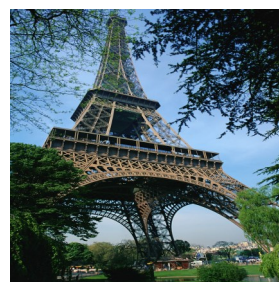


In **Science** the children will be working on the topic 'Light'. The children will recognise that they need light in order to see things, look at reflections, look for patterns in shadows and understand how shadows are formed.



In **French** this term, the children will be learning vocabulary about school and home. They will be extending their conversational skills and singing a range of songs in French.

ICT will be used to support learning throughout the curriculum. The children will also be using visual media and following and creating instructions.



In **History** , the children continue to study the early civilisations of Britain, including the Bronze and Stone ages.

In **Geography**, the children will be studying types of settlements in early Britain (linked to History). They will also compare a part of the UK with a part of Europe.

In **Design Technology**, we will design and make a photograph frame.

In **Art**, we will be studying the work of a famous artist. We will analyse his work, practise his techniques and finally, produce a detailed copy of one of his pieces.

In **R.E.** We will study the person of Jesus and look at his characteristics and qualities. We will also look at the meaning of Easter.

In **PSHE** we will be 'Going for Goals' setting ourselves personal learning targets.

In **Music**, we will continue to learn to play the recorder, by reading musical notation . We will listen to, and appreciate, pieces of classical music in preparation for our visit to the Halle Orchestra.



In PE the children will be taught for one lesson a week by a qualified PE coach.

This term it will be basketball and dance and rugby the second half term.

The second lesson of each week will be follow up lessons taken by the class.



Below is a reminder of the things your child needs to remember each day at school.
Please encourage them to bring their reading diary in every day.

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
Homework due in	Basketball	P.E. (first half term)		Learn Its & Beat That Tests
Spelling test	Dance (second half term)			Library books to be changed Every fort-night
Recorders				

Many thanks for your continued support this year.

Mrs Kinsella