



Year 3 Curriculum Letter

Spring 2016

Dear Parents

We would like to wish you a Happy New Year and welcome you back. We are very much looking forward to starting the term and we have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned which will take us on a journey underground!

Our new topic is titled

Explorers!

We will be following Jules Vernes adventure story 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' and using this as a starting point for our own amazing journey.

Literacy

In literacy we will be weaving our way through the adventure story and building up our own ideas for writing our own longer narrative with possible different endings.

During our journey we will study lots of non fiction text such as recounts (diary, reports, letters and explanations).

We will write our own radio play/film script and different forms of visual poetry (calligram and concrete) and structured poetry (Haiku, couplets and limerick).

Reading

We will be focusing on extracting information, locating key information in paragraphs and scanning. We will be using facts to infer feelings and emotions of the characters in the text.

Through a range of genre, we will be studying and using punctuation to begin to read with some fluency and with appropriate tone and expression to make meaning clear. We will read words using spelling rules and knowing their exceptions.

Writing

When writing we will be teaching pupils to recognise the impact of chosen vocabulary and know more about word meanings.

We will be collecting words banks to widen their vocabulary and we will learn how to use a dictionary and thesaurus by using the first and 2 letters of a word.

When planning pupils will be encouraged to create diagrams such as flow charts ensuring items are clearly sequenced and explain processes orally and in writing using flow chart as an aid.

Whilst writing in different genre they will be expected to sequence main events, write in first and third person and recount the same event in a variety of ways e.g. report, diary, story ensuring pronoun agreement.

Throughout the topic we will be encouraging pupils to re-read their work and assess areas which need improvement. It is important that pupils now begin to recognise that their first draft is not always the only or best draft and they should be able to find and make improvements independently.

Spelling

Spelling and word work will focus on spelling changes from y e.g. happy to happily and doubling consonant before adding suffixes e.g. shopping

All children should be able to spell the 100 high frequency words correctly and for those still having difficulty we would appreciate a lot of support from home with plenty of practise.

There will be a greater focus on spelling in class and pupils will be expected to use their understanding of syllables, phonemes (sounds) when spelling new words. We will also study groups of words which have similar spelling patterns and meanings. The class will have a spelling of the day which will focus on these strategies.

Handwriting and presentation

We still have a big focus on handwriting and we will be encouraging pupils to use cursive script and be proud of their presentation.

Numeracy

We will be starting the term with place value and the focus will be on ensuring that all children are at expected level for Year 3 in all skills, facts and vocabulary related to that topic with a link to money and measures. We will then move onto reasoning and problem solving with a strong emphasis on being able to explain how they have solved something verbally and in writing.

We will be having a big focus on ensuring pupils can recall their 2x,4x,8x tables and they can count in 50's 100's, 3's,5's,10's.

In addition we will be focusing on being able to read and write all numbers to 1000.

Our topic lends itself to a never ending supply of creative activities and we want to encompass as many as possible to enable our learning to be cohesive and cross curricular.

Our science work will take us underground learning about rocks, soils, volcanoes, earthquakes and forces. We would like to take Year 3 to White Scar Caves at Ingleton to provide them with some hands on experience and become real explorers for the day (more information to follow)

We will time line our journey as we travel deep into the earth and create cross sections of the earth. We will look at fossils, dinosaurs and use this as a stimulus for dance and music and our poetry.

Our map reading and atlas skills will be developed when finding countries related to our stories and learning about real explorers.

To ensure we know how to look after our environment and learn about our increased responsibilities as we become more independent we will be learning about rights and responsibilities and recognising risks, hazards and dangers in PSHCE.

If you would like to enhance your child's learning at home here are a few things you can do.

Purchase Journey to the centre of the earth retold by Penny Dolan (ISBN 978-1-4451-0459)

OR

20,000 Leagues under the Sea retold b Lynne Benton (ISBN 978-1-4451-0461-4)

These are books we will be studying in class but there are a range of other adventure stories based on scientific fact by publishers Classics retold (see amazon)

Alternatively you can read the original Jules Verne stories published by Wordsworth classics. They are quite long but if read to your child they are quite a good read.

Take a look at the National Geographic kids website

<http://ngkids.co.uk/science-and-nature/structure-of-the-earth>

or

<http://discoverykids.com/games/volcano-explorer/>

Here you will find lots of science facts related to our topics.

You could also encourage your child to keep a diary like an explorer as we travel through our topic at home so that they can recount what they have explored and what they have learnt.

We will be revising all time tables starting with 2x tables and it would be very helpful if you could focus your child on being able to recall all multiplication and division facts quickly.

Changes

Reading books will now be changed once a week. Your child's book will only be changed if it is evident that they have read to an adult. Books will be changed during ERIC time (Everyone Reading in Class) and this will be done on a rolling programme through the week. The school library will be visited on Wednesdays and this book can be an additional source of reading during ERIC time or a book that they wish to bring from home.

PE will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays and homework will be set on Tuesdays to be returned on Monday by Mrs Smith and Fridays spelling to be returned on Thursdays by Mrs Macdonald.

During this term we are encouraging pupils to develop their independent learning skills. As part of this we are encouraging them to recognise when they find something difficult or something easy and either challenge themselves or recognise that they need some support. There will not be set learning groups and this might mean that they move literacy or numeracy groups for a session or two. Mrs Smith has explained this to the class and discussed how this develops independent learners who recognise their strengths and areas to develop. Pupils should not feel upset about needing support or practise at something.

Towards the end of the term we will be inviting parents to visit Year 3 to experience our learning and we will contact you with dates and information very soon.

We do hope that this information is useful but if you do have any questions please do not hesitate to ask Mrs Smith or Mrs Macdonald.

We look forward to a fun and productive term.

Kind regards

Year 3 Team