



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! We've had a brilliant start to the year, with your children already producing some incredible work. We have a very busy term ahead of us, please find an overview of our topics below.

### English

This term the children will be looking at Folktales! We'll be comparing two regional folktales (Lazy Jack and Giant Johnny), working to identify common features, generating appropriate questions and building a model to create our own versions. Our SPaG focuses for this unit be the use of inverted commas to punctuate speech and prepositions. Following this the children will move on to producing Biographies. We will explore how a writer can describe events an engaging and detailed manner while developing our ability to draw information from paragraphs. Our SPaG focus for this unit will be the use of conjunctions to create complex sentences.

In Autumn 2, the children will start exploring Persuasive Letter writing. This will link to one of our class texts for the half-term, Alan Ahlberg's 'The Jolly Christmas Postman'. The children will be identifying and utilising a range of persuasive techniques to create a convincing argument. Our SPaG focus for this unit will be the use of conjunctions and the present perfect form of verbs. Following this the children will move on to our first Poetry unit, creating Shape Poems. We will be using 'Apes to Zebras' an anthology of shape poems, exploring a range of techniques and building vocabulary banks to create our own Christmas calligrams.

Guided Reading will take place through the week where children will build upon their comprehension, reading fluency and SPaG skills. Children's spelling will be tested every Tuesday.

### Maths

For Maths we are working through the Power Maths scheme. Our units for Autumn all focus on understanding place value up to 1000. This may include partitioning, comparing and ordering numbers and written methods for addition and subtraction. This foundational knowledge is key to building their understanding as we move into newer units later in the year. The multiplication tests are as follows...

|             |            |             |            |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| 09/09 (2x)  | 07/10 (3x) | 18/11 (11x) | 16/12 (6x) |
| 16/09 (4x)  | 14/10 (6x) | 25/11 (12x) |            |
| 23/09 (5x)  | 21/10 (9x) | 02/12 (4x)  |            |
| 30/09 (10x) | 11/11 (8x) | 09/12 (3x)  |            |

### Religious Education (RE)

This half-term our RE topic will cover the Harvest. Children will be answering key questions such as 'Why do communities celebrate the Harvest?' and 'Why is the Harvest such an important celebration to Christians?' Through this unit the children will be discussing how our Christian values are displayed through Harvest service and looking to scripture, prayers and hymns to gain a deeper understanding of why it is that we celebrate. The children will also be exploring the Jewish festival of Sukkot and drawing comparisons to the Christian Harvest.

In Autumn 2, children will work through our Christmas unit. We will be considering the impact that Jesus has had on our lives, reflecting upon Christmas as a celebration of God's presence within us. We'll be asking the questions 'How does it feel to be in the presence of God?' and 'In what ways do Christians believe that God is with us?'

### Science

This half-term the children will be experimenting with Light in Science! Investigating what we need in order to see objects in a dark place and learning all about how light travels. Children will also explore how different colours of light help us to see objects in the dark and understanding how certain surfaces can create

reflections. At the end of the unit the children will create their own shadow puppet theatre using all of their knowledge on light and shadows!

After the break, we will be learning all about Rocks! Children will compare and group together different types of rocks by observing their appearance and physical properties. We'll also explore the Rock Cycle and begin to learn more about how Fossils are formed.

## **Computing**

In Autumn 1, the children will be learning how to touch type. This will involve learning correct posture and finger positioning to develop fluency and accuracy when using a keyboard. They will be able to identify home, top and bottom keys, use the shift key effectively to create capital letters as well as the number row for typing digits.

Following this, we will begin to explore email. The children will learn how to access, read, compose and respond to emails. We'll discuss email safety and explore simulated scenarios to deepen our understanding.

## **PE**

For Autumn 1, the children will work through our Invasion Games unit. We'll practice one-handed passes and how to effectively move and apply tactics to outwit a defender. Following this the children will move onto Gymnastics, working towards creating full sequences involving travelling, rolling, jumping and balancing.

Following the break we'll move onto our Dance unit. Children will explore how movement can be used to communicate character and plot, building their own dance inspired by a superhero.

## **History**

This term we be learning all about Roman life in Britain. Children will investigate how the Roman Empire came to expand across the world. We'll also be using a range of historical sources to discover how Celtic people responded to Roman occupation, learning the story of Boudica's rebellion against the Romans and exploring the story of the Aurelian Moors, the first recorded African community in Britain.

## **Geography**

In Geography this term the children will be honing their Map Skills, particularly using a compass and grid references. We'll be learning to use the 8 points of a compass and locational language to describe the location of features and routes on a map. Children will also but using grid references to build their knowledge of the UK and the wider world.

## **Art/Design Technology**

In Art this term the children will be creating gestural drawings using charcoal as our medium. Pupils will explore the artistic technique of chiaroscuro, the contrast between light and dark. We'll explore a range of artists who make use of charcoal and work towards creating our own Cave-Art inspired piece through immersive gestural movements.

In DT, the children will be learning all about pneumatic systems. We'll explore a variety of simple systems and utilise them to design a 'Moving Monster' toy.

## **Music**

This term the children will be looking at Ballads. The children will identify the key features of a ballad, performing using actions and learning to sing in time and tune with a song. We'll use everything we've learnt to retell the story of a short animation, writing a verse with rhyming words and performing their own lyrics to the class.

Following the half-term the children will build upon these skills further by creating compositions for a series of animations. We'll discuss how music makes us feel and learn to play rhythms and melodies, with an awareness of other pupil's parts, which represent the sections of animation.

**PSHE**

Through Spring Term our PSHE focus is on 'Relationships'. This covers a broad range of scenarios from exploring our relationship with ourselves through empathy and acting as a role model, to our relationship with others through what we can do when friendships go wrong and how to identify and handle issues involving bullying.

We will also explore the role of emergency services and how we can all be superheroes by knowing what to do in an emergency situation.

**Kind regards,**

**Mr Graham, Mrs Stanley and Miss Cassidy**