

## Year 3 Spring Curriculum Letter

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a wonderful and restful Christmas break.

We are eager to get started with our learning again in Year 3 and this curriculum letter will give you an overview of what the spring term will look like. This letter will go into detail of the fantastic learning we have planned this term.

Miss McAlea and Mrs D'Aiuto

### English

Our topic for English in Spring 1 is 'Adventure, mystery and suspense'. Throughout this term, our focus text will be 'The Mysteries of Harris Burdick' by Chris Van Allsburg. This picture book is the core text of our writing lessons, allowing children to explore mysterious, story-less photographs and to, in time, create their own mysteries to go alongside them.

Children will engage with the text through inference of image and question making. Through using this text, children will learn the features of mystery stories, and how to effectively use suspense through punctuation and descriptive language. By the end of the topic, Year 3 will have the skills and knowledge to create their own mystery story to fit alongside one of the images from the book.

Year 3 will continue to develop their grammar skills with stand along SPaG lessons. This term, we will also be focusing on comprehension of texts through vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising. This will be done by the children completing a reading comprehension once a week to build their confidence and skills.

As a complimentary mystery themed text, Year 3 will be reading 'Magical Mission' by Geronimo Stilton. These separate, more focused lessons allow students to establish and develop reading skills, including modelling and questioning. Our whole-class reading lessons aim to introduce new vocabulary and encourage children to 'read between the lines' of their book. Most children have a deep love for reading, however do not take the time to stop and interpret what they have read. Our whole-class reading sessions will develop that skill whilst reading a topic-appropriate text!

After half term, our narrative writing will be focused on the core text 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl. This text allows children to develop their creative writing skills and character description writing. This book will also be the stimulus for shape poetry, which will result in children creating their own shape poem by the end of the term. We will also cover the non-fiction topic of fact files, posters and leaflets, using the core text supplemented by non-fiction books, to research into chocolate and how it is sourced.

### Mathematics

We will begin the spring term in Year 3 by continuing our topic of multiplying and dividing. The children will begin to multiply and divide 1 and 2 digit numbers with and without an exchange.

The following topic will then be length and perimeter, where year 3 will measure equivalent and different lengths using meters, centimetres and millimetres. They will also discuss perimeter and how to calculate it.

The first block lessons of fractions will be taught in spring 1, where children will revisit basics such as halves, quarters, numerators and denominators and equivalent fractions. Following our fractions topic, the children will cover mass and capacity – looking at volume in litres and millilitres, and mass in kilograms and grams.

The children will be expected to know all their times tables by the end of the year. We will practice times tables frequently, both formally with times tables grids and informally using times tables games. Please do encourage them to practice as much as possible, the more practice, the better!

### **Geography**

In Geography this half term, we will be comparing Barcelona and London. We will focus on comparing human and physical geography, whilst exploring culture and climate also. We endeavour to develop our map skills and by the final lesson, children will be able to produce their own map of a tourist spot in Barcelona.

After half term, our geography enquiry question will be 'How and why is my local area changing?' where we will explore the geography of our immediate area.

### **History**

In the beginning half of spring term, we will be working on historical skills based on our topic of 'Stone age to Iron Age Britain'. The children will be revising the topic using skills such as chronology, comparison, similarity and difference, enquiry and many more.

In spring 2, Year 3 will begin their 'Ancient Egyptians' topic. We will be covering topics such as hieroglyphics, pyramids, mummification and much more! This topic will also allow us to visit the British Museum, a fantastic school trip that will allow us to observe real mummies and Egyptian artefacts!

### **Science**

In our first topic 'rocks' we will be comparing and grouping together different types of rocks based on their appearance. We will also teach about fossils and the palaeontologist Mary Anning. We will take an afternoon visit to the Natural History Museum to look at some of her fossils she found!

After half term, our topic will be 'light'. We will recognise the light from the sun and the uses we have for light.

### **Religious Education**

Our first RE topic is 'Reconciliation'. Through this topic, we will learn the importance of forgiveness. We learn about the great commandment and how we are to follow God's example of forgiveness and love for everybody. Our RE topic allows children to use specialist vocabulary, whilst practicing their discussion skills. We also endeavour to make our R.E lessons practical and creative where possible. In addition to our R.E. lessons, we have a large focus on classroom worship, with each child having the opportunity to lead a prayer in class.

Later this term, we will be studying the topic 'Celebrating the Mass'. We ensure our R.E. lessons have a constant focus on thought and reflection.

## Computing

The children will learn about creating media animation. We will explore images frame by frame, whether they can move and how to create stop frame animation. We also retain a key focus on the children learning about the importance of e-safety.

## Art

This term our art focus is related to our geography topic of Barcelona. We are focused on the architect Antoni Gaudi and his legacy around Barcelona. We will be closely studying the buildings in Barcelona and their iconic designs. Our final piece will be a sketch of the Sagrada Familia, one of Gaudi's most famous pieces.

## Design Technology

Building upon our art lessons, our design and technology lessons will continue to focus on architecture. We will be creating a digital poster to advertise Barcelona to tourists.

## PE

Children will have PE every Tuesday and Thursday with Fulham Football Club. Children must arrive at school in their PE kits every Tuesday and Thursday rather than regular school uniform.

## Homework

Maths and English homework will be set on a **Monday morning** on google classroom and is to be handed back into school the following Monday in their homework books. Alongside the Maths and English, children will be given spellings and times tables work. Times tables and spellings are to be learned for the following week. Their times table tests and spelling tests will take place on Friday.

Children have been individually assessed using the Read, Write, Inc scheme, and they have been appropriately placed on a reading level. Your child will either be on RWI colour banding or Chapter 1, Chapter 2, or Chapter 3. These levels are based on understanding of vocabulary, as well as reading with expression and fluency. Children are re-assessed regularly so they can change banding throughout the year.

Please encourage your children to read every night and to record what they have read in their reading records. Once a week your child should read aloud with an adult or older sibling at home. The adult must record a comment about the child's reading and sign their name.

Reading books will be changed weekly on a **Friday morning**. Please make sure your child has brought their book and reading record into school on Friday, books cannot be changed unless your child brings them in. Library books are changed on **Wednesdays**, and the same applies.

Alongside their reading record, children will be given a 'word log', we greatly encourage your children to use these. They write a new word they have read, research the definition, and add it to their word log. It helps children to build their vocabulary and understanding whilst reading and is incredibly beneficial to their English development.

Miss McAlea and Mrs D'Aiuto