

# Y3 - Spring 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school. We hope you had a lovely Christmas and got to spend lots of quality time with your families. We have many engaging activities planned for this half-term to get 2023 off to a great start.

This half-term we will be island hopping around the Galapagos, learning about the wildlife, plants and culture. We will learn about magnets and forces and go fishing for magnetic materials as well as many other exciting activities.

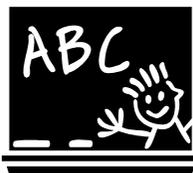
We look forward to continuing to work with you in partnership and we value your support. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to pop in for a chat and we will be more than happy to speak to you. If you would prefer, an appointment can be made.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Bracknall and Miss Kirkup (Class Teachers)**  
**Mrs Evans (Teaching Assistant)**



# Some Important Reminders...



**Start of the day.** We would be grateful if you would ensure that your child arrives on the school yard by 8.45. This means that they are ready for the doors opening at 8.50 and they can take part in their early bird tasks.

**End of the day.** Children should be collected at 3.20. Children must be collected by an adult from the allocated door. **Please inform us if someone new is collecting your child - if they are unknown to us we may not allow your child to go with them.**

**Uniforms and Coats.** We would be grateful if these could be clearly named. Please ensure children bring a coat to school everyday, even if the weather is warm that morning. The English weather can soon change so we like to be prepared!

**PE.** This term P.E. lessons will be on a Thursday afternoon. Children can attend school dressed in their P.E. kits. Please ensure that your child has a full P.E. kit including comfortable black plimsolls. No jewellery should be worn on P.E. days and long hair should be tied back. Year 3 will need PE clothing on a Wednesday if they are taking part in the lunchtime football.

**Reading.** Your child has a guided reading session for half an hour every day with their class teacher. They also have an opportunity to read their reading book on a 1:1 basis with an adult as often as possible. It is therefore vital that reading books are returned every day. A shared reading session at home is very valuable. You can write a comment or simply sign your child's Home-Link Reading Record Book.

**Learning and Home:** As per our new learning at home agreement, children are expected to read at home at least 3 times a week. Learning at home books are sent home every Friday with spellings and space to practice multiplications. These should be practised at least three times a week and returned to school each Thursday.

***Thank you for your continued support, it really makes a***

**English:** In English we will begin looking at non-fiction, learning all about the Galapagos Islands. We will research and find interesting facts, planning a report using catchy subheadings. We will then plan and create our own travel guide about the Galapagos Islands. We will then move onto a fiction unit where we will read the story 'Greta and the Giants'. The children will then plan and write their own narrative with dialogue to build relationships between two characters

**Maths:** In Maths the children will be consolidating their knowledge of the 2, 4 and 8 times-tables. They will be comparing statements and their related calculations. The children will then learn different methods to multiply and divide larger numbers.

**Science:** Our science unit this half-term is magnets and forces. We will explore the magnetic force by learning about the poles on a magnet. We will discover which materials are magnetic and which are not and then will group them accordingly. We will compare the way objects move along surfaces and notice that magnetic forces work at a distance.

**Geography:** This half-term the children will be learning about where the Mediterranean region is and which countries are in this area of the world. They will then compare and contrast the UK to the Mediterranean, focusing on where they live to a specific Mediterranean country.

**ICT: 3D Design.** The children will learn to use 3D space on a grid. They will re-create or design familiar 3D models using cubes. They will learn to use tools to improve and adapt models and colour individual blocks or whole models.

**Art:** We will start by studying the work of artist Paul Klee. We will recap the primary and secondary colours, making a colour wheel by mixing water colours. We will explore textures and effects by using different paint brushes, shades and thickness of paint. They will then experiment with shape and colour to create their own painting inspired by Paul Klee.

**French:** Children will learn about the French celebration on Epiphany. They will continue to learn about Parnassian monuments and simple questions and answers. Children will read the story 'Un, Deux, Trois, Quatre Pattes'.

**Music:** Children will be listening and responding to songs about what makes our world better. The children will also be learning to play the recorder.

**PE: Gymnastics** This half-term the children will learn how to use skills in different ways and link them to make actions and sequences of movement. They will also perform a range of actions with consistency, fluency and clarity of movement.

**RE:** In RE, Year 3 will learn all about Muslims and Islam and explore Ramadan and how Muslims celebrate.

**JIGSAW:** In our PSHE scheme JIGSAW, we will be focusing on goals and new beginnings. We will create New Year's resolutions by thinking carefully about realistic goals. We will discuss challenges and ways we can overcome them.

## Top tips for Year 3 parents - How you can help your child!



- Encourage your child to read every day - 20 minutes would be ideal in order to gain signatures towards their Eager Reader step ladder.
- You can support your child by exploring their understanding of what they have read e.g. Describe what has happened so far. How does a character feel, what do you think they will do next and why? Would you recommend this book to a friend?
- Practising times tables at any available time – in the queue at the supermarket, in a traffic jam etc. Also practise division facts from the times tables e.g.  $2 \times 5 = 10$  so  $10 \div 2 = 5$ .
- Practise using maths in real-life situations e.g. reading timetables, money (how much change will you get?), telling the time with analogue & digital clocks, converting from 12 hour to 24 hour time and working out the duration of events.
- Make sure your child goes to sleep at a reasonable time. Arriving to school well -rested gives children an excellent head start for the school day.
- The school have subscribed to Times Table Rockstarz and Read Theory so your children have their login details for these websites.
- Encourage your child to become more independent. Help them to develop strategies for making sure they have everything they need at school rather than packing their bag for them.
- Take an interest in their home learning tasks; make sure they hand it in on time. If your child has not understood what they need to do and you are unsure how best to explain, get them to ask the teacher as soon as possible.
- To develop speaking and listening skills, encourage your child to explain things to you as clearly as possible. This could also apply to skills of persuasion or instructions. For example, only let your child watch that special TV program if they can successfully persuade you using good persuasive language and reasoning. Ask general knowledge questions such as countries and their capitals, or basic scientific facts/vocabulary.

## Attendance and Punctuality



Please ensure your child is **on-time** for school every day. Children should be on the yard for 8.45, ready for the doors to open at 8.50am. Good **attendance** is important and has a direct effect on learning. Children should not take time-off unless absolutely necessary. We award certificates and prizes for good attendance. We are aiming for 98%-100% - please play your part in helping us to meet this ambitious target.