

Year 3

Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



KEY DATES

End of Term 1:
Friday 22nd October

Start of Term 2:
Monday 1st November

Parent Conferences:
Thursday 2nd and
Tuesday 7th December

English & Grammar

This term in English, the class will be reading Geraldine McCaughrean's retelling of Homer's *Odyssey*. Homer was a poet who lived approximately 2,800 years ago in ancient Greece. The *Odyssey* tells the story of Odysseus' journey home from Troy, which takes him ten years. Travelling in boats with his companions, Odysseus has many exciting and terrifying adventures, meeting exotic people, monsters, gods, goddesses and witches. All that our hero wants, however, is to return home to his son, Telemachus, and to his faithful wife, Penelope, who believes that her husband is still alive and who therefore refuses to remarry. As well as reading the tale and exploring the ambitious vocabulary it contains, children will write recounts from Odysseus' perspective. This will give them the opportunity to practise using techniques such as extended noun phrases, rhetorical questions and idioms to convey characters' emotional responses.

This term in Grammar, the class will be reviewing the key concepts of clauses and sentences. They will explore how to write about events which happen in order, and will learn how to provide reasons for events in their writing, using increasingly sophisticated sentence structures. In their daily English language homework, they will continue to consolidate knowledge such as how to use capital letters correctly, and the differences between vowels and consonants.

Ancient History

This term, we will study the prehistoric world. Children will learn about how the universe formed after the Big Bang, and about the first forms of life on Planet Earth. Then, children will focus on the evolution of humans, and their progress from living as hunter-gathers to more settled lives in permanent homes.

Vocabulary: Big Bang, planet, evolve, creature, tool, skill, extinct, dwelling, temporary, permanent.

British History

This term, students will learn about Augustine's Mission, which saw the arrival of Christianity in England. Children will study Augustine's journey from Rome to the land of the Angles at the end of the 6th century. Key figures include Augustine, Pope Gregory, King Ethelbert and Queen Bertha.

Vocabulary: piety, Christianity, monastery, summoned, expedition, convert.

Maths

In the autumn term, children will learn how to:

Place Value and Number

- Read and write numbers up to 1,000 in numerals and words
- Identify, represent and estimate numbers using different representations
- Recognise the place value of each digit in a 3-digit number (hundreds, tens and ones)
- Compare and order numbers up to 1,000

Addition and Subtraction

- Estimate the answers to calculations and use the inverse to check answers
- Add and subtract numbers mentally using known facts, including a 3-digit number and ones, a 3-digit number and tens, and a 3-digit number and hundreds
- Add and subtract numbers with up to three digits using a formal written method (column addition and subtraction)
- Solve problems including missing number calculations using known facts and place value of digits

Multiplication and Division

- Recall and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables
- Use arrays to represent multiplication and division
- Use grouping and sharing to solve division calculations

Key vocabulary: place value, hundreds, tens, ones, represent, digits, numbers, partition, greater than, less than, increasing, decreasing, estimate, inverse, regroup, exchange, groups of, lots of, share, equally, arrays, rows, columns.

Science

During the first half of the autumn term, the children will study chemistry. They will begin by learning about the three states of matter before focusing on particle theory and how this can be used to explain the properties of solids, liquids and gases. Finally, they will expand their knowledge of the properties of materials. Throughout the half-term's work, they will think about the importance of observations and evidence in the scientific method.

In the second half of term, the children will study biology, learning about what organisms are and about the life processes. Later, they will learn about the different parts of plants and their functions, the life cycle of plants, and ways in which plants can be classified. Classification is an important idea this half-term, and it is a scientific method to which children will return later in the year.

Latin

This term, Year 3 begins its study of the Latin language. The first few weeks are devoted to learning and revising some key aspects of English grammar, such as verb person, verb number and subjects. The children then go on to learn their first Latin verbs. Over the term, they learn how Latin changes the ending of a verb to express (or to reflect) the subject, and they use this knowledge – and the adverb *non* – to write their own positive and negative Latin sentences. They also learn a range of conjunctions that they can use to read and to write more complex Latin sentences.

Geography

The children begin the autumn term by learning about what geography is, what geographers do and how they use maps, directions, and lines of latitude and longitude to describe the locations of places on the Earth's surface. Later, they focus on core topics in physical geography. They learn about the seasons, about oceans and coasts, about the water cycle and about rivers. While they do this, they will develop their knowledge of the locations of important physical features, and they will start to understand how processes such as erosion and deposition are constantly changing the world around us.

Religious Education

Over the course of this academic year, the children will study the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. We begin the term by learning about the Bible and by reading some of its most significant narratives, including Creation; Adam and Eve, and the Fall; Noah's Ark and the Flood; and the testing of Abraham. As the children study them, they will be encouraged to understand the different ways in which they have been interpreted, focusing on the difference between literal and metaphorical interpretations.

Towards the end of term, we shall move on to begin studying Judaism. The children will learn Jews' major beliefs, including about God and the Messiah, and they will develop an understanding of how Jews differ in their beliefs and practices. This will set them up for a more detailed study of this faith in the spring term.

PSHE

During the first few weeks of term, as we welcomed children back to school, form teachers spent a considerable amount of time getting to know the children in their classes. As part of this, the children revised the school's rules and routines, and discussed how these rules will help them have a happy and successful year. They also explored the importance of respectful relationships and discussed the practical steps we can take in a range of contexts to improve and support them. The children also explored their own identity and considered what made them special and unique, helping them to appreciate the importance of self-respect.

Much of this autumn term will be devoted to learning about Britain's democratic system, including local and devolved government, and the rule of law. The children will begin by learning about the three parts of Parliament, about how laws are formed and about the political process, including the role of the government, the opposition and the civil service. They will then be introduced to the distinction between the legislature and the judiciary, and they will explore the role of the police.

Towards the end of term, the children will begin to learn about some important figures who have changed our world. The children will explore the character traits that have supported them to make a positive contribution to society.

Over the course of the year, our PSHCE curriculum aims to help children learn to live as kind, tolerant members of our diverse community, and to give them an understanding of how to keep themselves safe and both physically and mentally healthy. Our teaching will be adapted to the needs of our children and will respond to issues and events in our community and in the wider world.

Music

This term, Year 3 will be developing their knowledge of how to read, write and perform music. They will learn to use subject-specific vocabulary such as *stave*, *treble clef*, *time signature*, *bar line*, *double bar line*, *bar*, *rest*, *minim*, *quaver* and *crotchet*, and they will continue to develop their sense of rhythm, pulse and pitch. We will also learn to sing songs of roughly ABRSM Grade 3 difficulty.

PE

This term, we will be doing basketball and fitness. Basketball will focus on passing, shooting and dribbling with a significant emphasis on teamwork and co-operation. In fitness we will be looking at different muscle groups and building stamina.

