

Year 3 Newsletter

Spring Term 2019



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year. We hope you have all had a relaxing Christmas and that the children are raring to start the new term!

The children have now settled into Amherst and are familiar with routines and expectations. This term the learning, hard work and enthusiasm will continue and hopefully the children will enjoy our new topics.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the children's progress at Parents' evening in term 4 which will be held on Wednesday 27th March and Thursday 28th March. You will also be able to look at all your child's books during an Open Afternoon on Friday 15th March at 2.45pm.

English

Reading

The children will continue to participate in shared and independent reading activities this term. They will also work as part of a group in our 'Guided Reading' sessions which helps to develop reading and written comprehension skills. Thank you for supporting your child with their reading at home – this is a vital ingredient to them becoming independent thinkers, confident writers, enjoying stories and learning facts and it also widens and develops language and literacy skills. All the children will continue to develop their accuracy, fluency, expression and comprehension of texts. We appreciate that many of the children in Year 3 are reading independently now. However, it is really important that their comprehension of the books which they are reading at home, is checked and they sometimes read aloud so that they practise their intonation and pace. Reading out loud is a different skill to reading in their heads.

This term we will be focusing on written comprehension skills, also discussing words and phrases that capture the author has chosen. We will develop the children's understanding of the text by drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, predicting what may happen from details stated and implied. They will learn to retrieve and record information from non-fiction books.

Thank you so much to all the parents who have been coming in to help by listening to children read. If any other parents would like to be a 'Reading Mum or Dad', please inform the office. We would really like your child to have their planner in school every day. These will be checked by an adult once a week.

Writing

During the first half term the children will be writing stories based on Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl. Our objective is for the children to create characters, settings and plots and organise ideas in succinct paragraphs. The children will be developing their use of dialogue within story writing and use the punctuation of speech more accurately including a new line for a new speaker. The children will be encouraged to build a rich and varied vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures within their story writing.

We will be writing our own versions of 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright using figurative language, building on our skills from terms 1 and 2. We will continue to encourage the

children to use alliteration, similes and metaphors and introduce them to onomatopoeias and personification.

The children will also be looking at diary, persuasive and recount writing in relation to our topic on The Romans. We hope to write a diary 'a day in the life of a Roman soldier' and look at features of persuasive writing in relation to the lifestyle and beliefs of the Romans. The children will be encouraged to assess the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggest improvements.

Spelling

You will find the high frequency spelling words, which the children need to learn for this term on the website in the Year 3 homework activities page. We really appreciate your support in helping your child to learn their spellings each term. The children have been given a list of words but they still need to revise and learn the list of words from Terms 1 and 2.

The children will use the prefixes 'sub', 'tele', 'super' and 'auto' and the suffixes 'less', 'ness', 'ful' and 'ly'. They will be introduced to placing the possessive apostrophe accurately in words such as boys' or children's. Strategies for spelling homophones correctly will be discussed and built on from last term.

Handwriting

The children will continue to use the cursive joined-up script and this will be taught regularly so that the legibility, consistence and quality of handwriting increases.

World Book Day Thursday 7th March 2019

At Amherst we will be celebrating World Book Day on 7th March at school and are going to ask the children to dress up as their favourite book character.

Maths

Number

The children will continue to develop their understanding of multiplication and division. This will be linked to problem solving and reasoning skills. After this, we will start to learn about money and solve real-life problems with 2 steps. Bar charts and pictograms will be the next topic and will include reading and drawing their own charts using data. Measuring lengths and calculating perimeter will follow. In the latter part of the term, the children will be learning about fractions of both shapes and numbers. The children will count up and down in halves, thirds, quarters and tenths to ten. They will compare and order fractions with the same denominator and recognise equivalent fractions such as $\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{6} = \frac{1}{3}$.

The children will also revisit the formal written methods when adding and subtracting (in columns). They will be encouraged to estimate answers to calculations and use inverse operations to check their answers.

Multiplication Tables.

Any assistance that you are able to give your child at home with their multiplication tables will be of great benefit. It is important that the children do not only recall their tables but can apply them to real life situations. We will assess the children's understanding of their tables through problem solving, tests and practical activities.

Science

We will be looking at Forces, Magnets and Light this term.

Forces and Magnets The children will compare how things move on different surfaces, notice that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a

distance, observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials but not others. They will compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet and identify some magnetic materials. Our aim is for the children to recognise that magnets have 2 poles and predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other depending on which poles are facing.

Light

The objectives in this topic are for the children to recognise that they need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light, notice that light is reflected from surfaces, recognise that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect their eyes, identify that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object and find patterns in the way that the sizes of shadows change.

Computing

The children will be programming and coding using the Scratch program. This involves controlling a sprite around a maze, designing a game and problem solving.

History and Geography

The children will be studying The Romans. They will be finding out who the Celts and the Romans were and when they lived using a timeline. The children will compare a Celtic warrior and a Roman soldier. Why the Romans wanted to invade Britain and where they came from will be studied. The children will find out about the importance of Boudicca in the Celtic revolt and how historical sources relating to Boudicca contradict each other. The similarities and differences between Roman and Celtic lifestyles will be researched. The children will study Roman food, houses and entertainment during this topic. We are going to have some Roman days towards the end of our topic in which the children will act out Roman life and participate in Roman activities. These days will involve the children dressing up in their togas or soldier gear, so keep those old sheets or pillowcases rather than throw them out as they may come in handy!

Please note that the children will need to organise a Roman costume on the following dates:
3A – Monday 11th March 3W - Tuesday 12th March 3S - Wednesday 13th March
There will be a letter sent out later in the term with more details.

PE In our Games lessons the children will be learning the skills for tag-rugby, lacrosse and netball and football. These lessons will take place on Tuesday afternoons. We are lucky enough to have the handball coach in school for Year 3 on a Wednesday so 3S and 3A will have this instead of indoor games for Term 3. 3W will take part in handball during Term 4. The children will be participating in indoor athletics and gymnastics during our indoor PE lessons held on a Wednesday or Friday.

Art /DT Our art lessons will relate to our topic on the Romans. They will include making Roman catapults, shields, as well as designing and creating mosaics.

RE The children will be learning about festivals across different religions.

PSHE The themes this term are Determination and Politeness.

Music: The children will be continuing with recorders on a Monday afternoon so please can you ensure your child has their recorder in school.

Homework

We will continue to provide you with the intended learning and the homework for each week in your child's planner and on the website within the 'Homework activities' in the Year 3 section of the site.

Each week, the children are expected to complete the next page of their MA book (or 2 pages if instructed to do so) in pencil as well as any corrections from previous tests. Your child should be able to complete most of the page independently but may find occasional questions challenging. It is much appreciated if you are able to help your child with the odd question and is also helpful to indicate any help given by an adult on the page. If you do feel your child's MA book is not the right level for them, then please do get in touch. Sometimes MA pages will be completed in school so we are aware how long the homework is taking and whether the level is appropriate for your child. We are keen for homework not to be a huge issue each week and would like the children to develop independence as well as maths skills.

Like last term, the MA books will be sent home on a Friday and are expected in the following Wednesday.

We have been so impressed by the children's enthusiasm for all areas of the curriculum and if they should carry out any additional work at home, which relates to or reinforces objectives, which we are covering at home; we would love to see it.

Thank you very much for all your support with your child's learning and we look forward to working with you again this term.

If you ever have a query or would like to talk to your child's class teacher about an issue or homework, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Miss Apps, Mrs Wheeler and Miss Steptowe