

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 3. We hope that you have had a relaxing summer. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children over this first week of term and hope their transition to Amherst is as smooth as possible. This letter is intended to answer some of the questions you may have at this stage of term. We will be able to expand on this information at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to make an appointment via the school office if you wish to meet with us.

Dates for Your Diary

19th September (4pm) - Meet the Teacher
4th October – School Photos
17th November (2.45pm) – Open Afternoon
28th and 30th November – Parents' Evening

Topics

This list is not definitive but it gives you a broad outline of the areas being addressed this term. A full curriculum overview of the year can be found on the Year 3 section of the Amherst School website.

- **English:**
 - *Matilda (Roald Dahl)*
 - *Stone Giant and the Water Goblin (Pie Corbett)*
 - *Whole-School Text (TBC)*
 - *Adventure at Sandy Cove (Pie Corbett)*
- **Maths:** Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division
- **Science:** Rocks
- **Geography:** Our Local Area
- **Computing:** Basic Word Processing, Programming using 'Scratch'

Homework

Maths: Your child will be given a Mental Arithmetic (MA) book and we would like them to complete one page each week. Your child should be able to complete the majority of it independently but we are grateful of any parental support. If your child has required a lot of support, please let us know by starring the questions (*) or writing a short note on the page. It is important that children complete all corrections from previous tests before moving on to the next one. The purpose of MA books is to support children in their knowledge of the language of maths and understanding questions independently as well as the calculations used to solve them.

Times Tables: Children should practise times tables (and related division facts) regularly at home. We do not send home specific work but highly recommend that children spend time learning their times tables to reinforce school work. Children should begin by learning 2, 5 and 10s, then move on to 3, 4 and 8s before finally practising 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12s. There are a number of really good apps/websites for learning times tables, e.g. Squeebles, Hit the Button and BBC Rockstars.

Spelling: Your child will bring home an orange spelling homework book each Friday with a list of words inside. We will test your child on these spellings the following Wednesday in the back of their orange book. These words will either link to the spelling rules we have been learning about in school, high frequency words, topic words or words from the statutory list. Your child may choose to use a variety of techniques to learn the words such as 'Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check', mnemonics, rainbow writing etc and must hand in their book with evidence of practice by Wednesday. Examples of the type of practice they might complete can be found in their orange homework books. We will provide challenge words for those children who already know most of the spellings.

Reading: Your child will choose a book from our banded reading scheme. Your child should be encouraged to read for at least fifteen minutes daily, independently or with an adult. Even if they are able to read independently, we would really appreciate you continuing to hear them read to support them with increasing fluency, expression and comprehension. The children must record the book title and the pages read in their planners. Planners must be handed in on a **Friday** and should be in school every day. Please sign your child's planner each week before it is checked at school to indicate that you have heard them read. Recommended reading lists are available on the school website.

Unfinished or additional pieces of work may be set to complete at home, at the discretion of the class teacher. If possible, please cover your child's MA and spelling books in plastic or keep them in a folder in your child's bag so as to keep them in good condition throughout the year. Each week, MA and Spelling homework will be given out on a **Friday**, to be returned, at the latest, by the following **Wednesday**. Planners should be handed in every **Friday**. Information about the different homework activities can be found on the Amherst School website.

School Equipment

- A pencil case containing: HB pencils, coloured pencils, coloured fineliners, sharpener, scissors, clear 30cm ruler (non-flexible and preferably with cm and mm), rubber (please avoid novelty/scented rubbers), black dry wipe pens and glue sticks. Stationery packs are available from the office for £12.00.
- A dictionary and thesaurus

Games and PE

Please ensure PE kits are kept in school every day.

- Amherst or plain navy t-shirt, shorts and white socks
- Trainers
- Swimming trunks (not loose fitting) for boys / one piece for girls; swimming hat, goggles (optional) and a towel for everyone
- Shin pads and knee-high navy socks for rugby, football and hockey. As the weather worsens, football or rugby boots for Games lessons on the field
- **Optional:** Navy blue school sweatshirt or Team Amherst hoodie and navy blue jogging trousers for cold weather.

In the first term, swimming lessons will take place on a **Thursday** and games lessons (handball) will be on a **Wednesday**. Any changes to these days during the term will be outlined in the intended learning sheet in your child's planner but it is important for children to have their PE kit in every day in case of timetable changes. They should also bring their planner in every day to help improve their independence.

The Year 3 staff are very much looking forward to a busy and productive year with your children.

Many thanks for your support,

Miss Wonnacott

Miss Harvey

Mrs Carver

Mrs Lester