



## Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head Teacher: Miss Anna Smith

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to school and to the start of Key Stage Two! I am delighted to be teaching Year Three and look forward to a happy and successful year. The children have settled well and are pleased to be back. They are also adjusting well to the new rules and procedures for keeping safe around school. Despite very limited time for you to catch me at the start and end of the day, I would encourage you to keep in touch via email (through the office) or notes if there is anything you would like to bring to my attention. I am looking forward to our Year 3 learning journey this year and hope that your child thrives, progresses and enjoys the year. With this in mind, the following information about the curriculum for this term should help you understand what we are covering and help you to further support your child.

### **Reading**

Reading is the key to accessing every area of the curriculum, so it vital that together we support their progress in this area. The children have been issued with a new reading diary in which to record their reading, both in school and at home. The children are aware they need to take their diary home every afternoon and bring it into school the following morning, when it will be checked. The expectation is that you or your child will make an entry in their diary each evening. Sometimes this may follow a theme, for example, they might be asked to make a prediction or summarise a chapter. If they are reading non-fiction, they might like to tell me a new fact they have discovered. I would strongly urge you to listen to your child read aloud and discuss the text with them. This would benefit them enormously. Please sign and date the diary every time you hear your child read and include any thoughts you may have. Your views are always welcome. Although the children will bring home books each day to read from our classroom shelves, please encourage them to include any other books they read at home, both fiction and non-fiction. It is always interesting to know the children's choices and preferences.

### **Homework**

Homework will now be set using Google Classroom. It will be clearly indicated and accessible via your child's login. It will be set on a THURSDAY to be completed by the following TUESDAY. The children may print the homework task and stick the sheets into their book, or may answer set questions directly into their yellow homework book. Children's spellings will continue to be given in their book, also on a Thursday and tested the following Wednesday. Each half term, your child will have a longer spelling list – their Spelling Star words, which will be tested during the last week before we break up. In addition to weekly spellings, your child will be set a maths and English task (though this may occasionally change) to complete. Homework should be neatly presented with the same expectations as in the classroom. Headings and dates should be recorded and underlined. Please encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip and posture. Please encourage your child to practice spellings and revisit old spellings they found challenging. It will benefit them considerably as they continue up through the years.

Homework is given to reinforce what they are learning at school, so they should for the most part be able to complete tasks independently, but some support may be needed, especially in the early weeks.

### **P.E.**

Gosling class will be having P.E on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, with Mr. Whittle. On these days, the children should come to school in their PE kits, staying in them all day. While the weather remains good, sessions will be outdoors, so it is important that the children have trainers in school. As the weather gets colder the children will need track suit bottoms and tops. For indoor PE, children will need shorts and a t shirt – please see the website for school uniform information. We will regularly be running the daily mile, so children will need their trainers in school daily. ALL items of uniform should be named.

## Classroom Equipment

In line with Covid-19 guidelines and to encourage a sense of responsibility and independence, we ask that children bring their own equipment to school. It would be helpful therefore if the children had items such as writing and colouring pencils, a rubber, a sharpener and a 30cm ruler, preferably a rigid one, as well as a glue stick, in a clear pencil case. These are stored in their desks for their use only. We do of course have this equipment in the classroom should children need it. It is also helpful to provide your child with hand sanitiser and tissues. As the year progresses, I will be awarding handwriting points with a view to some children earning their pen licence once they have shown consistent and neat handwriting, with clearly defined ascenders and descenders, in a joined cursive style. In this case, they may use a blue handwriting pen for all writing, except maths. If the children have their own pen, please ensure that it is a handwriting pen (not a biro) and it is clearly named.

Water bottles should be filled each morning before school. The children may bring a fruit snack for playtime. As cloakroom space is limited, please ensure your child has a bag which is suitable for their needs and not over-sized.

## Curriculum

We have an interesting and broad curriculum this term and the children have already shown keenness and curiosity to learn.

In **English**, Year 3 will focus on reading comprehensions, grammar, punctuation and spelling lessons. We will continue handwriting sessions and use quality texts to explore different genres of writing. As part of a whole school project, we are studying Oliver Jeffer's 'Here We Are' book. During the course of the term, we will look at 'Stone Age Boy' and Roald Dahl's 'The Twits'. These will be the inspiration for us to learn and try out writing genres such as character studies, letter writing, biographies, recounts and stories.

In **maths** this term, the children will be learning about place value of 3 and 4 digit numbers, comparing, ordering and identifying the value of digits within numbers .their quick recall of multiplication and division facts. By the end of the year, it is the expectation that the children **will know at least their 2, 10, 5, 3, 4, 8 multiplication and division facts**. We will also be learning mental and written addition and subtraction strategies, length, money, shape and fractions. We will focus on fluency of recall of number facts, reasoning and problem solving. Please support your child to achieve this as it will really help their maths in the years to come.

In **Science** this term, the topic will be 'Rocks'. The children will be able to know the difference between natural and human-made rocks, compare different kinds of rocks based on their appearance, make systematic and careful observations by examining different types of rocks, make systematic and careful observations to investigate the permeability of different soils, recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter by explaining how soil is formed, describe in simple terms how fossils are formed and explain Mary Anning's contribution to palaeontology. In the second half of the term, we will be studying light; reflection and shadows and how/why they occur and darkness as the absence of light.

Our **history** topic this half term is the Stone Age, moving to the Bronze and Iron Age in the next half term. The children will explore what humans needed for survival, timelines and sources of evidence. We will learn what people living at that time ate, how they lived (moving from hunter gathering to farming), what types of houses they built and cave paintings. As well as our history focus, the Stone Age will support our art learning (cave paintings, rock paintings) and English (as we read the book 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura). The children have been given sketch books this year which they will take with them through to Year 6.

Our theme for **RE** this term is belonging and we will take a look at signs of belonging – for example 'Does taking bread and wine show that someone is a Christian?' We will explore the ritual of communion and baptism and other ways Christians might show they belong to the church.

In **computing** we will be using the iPads and Netbooks to enhance their learning across the whole curriculum. The children will look at staying safe on the internet and what this means to them.

In Key Stage 2, children will be learning a modern foreign language. We are very lucky to have Mrs Thandi who will teach **French** to Goslings for an hour a week. Mainly focussing on verbal skills, they will be taught basic greetings and how to introduce themselves, moving on to numbers, colours and some basic vocabulary.

Outside trips are restricted currently, but as soon as we are able we will be booking a visit. In the meantime, we have a virtual event booked for the Henley Literary Festival on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

I look forward to teaching your children and having a very productive autumn term. Once again, if there is anything you are unsure of, please contact me through the office, and I will arrange to speak to you.

Thank you for your support. Stay safe and well.

Fiona O'Reilly