



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Head of School: Miss Anna Smith

Executive Principal: Mr Dave Rooney

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to Key Stage 2! I hope you and your families had a wonderful summer break. The children look incredibly smart in their blazers and I am impressed by how quickly they have settled into Year 3 and adapted to the new routines. At this stage, I would like to encourage communication between home and school, which is crucial for children's progress. Please do not hesitate to see me in the morning on the playground or after school if there is anything you would like to discuss. I hope that your child continues to thrive, progress and enjoy the rest of their time at Holy Trinity. Having spent some time getting to know the class during transition, I am really excited about the year ahead. To make the home school partnership easier, here is some information about the topics we will be covering in the curriculum. I hope it is useful to you.

Reading

I cannot stress enough the importance of daily reading, as continued progress enables children to access every area of the curriculum. Children should read daily. 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, where it will be checked. The expectation is that 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. If you are able to come in and hear readers on a Friday afternoon, you are most welcome.

Homework

Homework will be set on Friday to be back the following Tuesday. Your child will usually be given a reading comprehension each week alongside a maths task, although occasionally other subjects may be included. Homework should be neatly presented with the same expectations as in the classroom. Please encourage your child to use the correct pencil grip and posture. The children will also be given a weekly spelling list with their homework to learn for a test the following Wednesday. Spelling Stars will be given out at the beginning of each term to be learnt for a test during the last week of term. Please encourage your child to practice spellings. It will benefit them considerably as they continue up through the years. If you are able to cover your child's homework book with clear plastic, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support.

P.E.

Gosling class will be having P.E on a Friday and will swim each Thursday morning. If you are able to accompany us to the Magnet Leisure Centre to assist with swimming, please let me know. We leave school at 11am and return at approximately 12.30pm. This gets earlier as the term progresses and the children become faster at getting changed! **Please refer to the school website regarding correct P.E. kit** and please ensure all items are clearly named.

Classroom Equipment

To encourage a sense of responsibility and independence, children have been given essential equipment to store in their desks. However, I am more than happy for the children to have their own pencil case with key equipment, for example: pencil, rubber and ruler (preferably a 30cm rigid type) and coloured pencils. The children are adjusting to their new Key Stage 2 books well: smaller squares in maths book and narrow lines in English and humanities books. There is continued emphasis on handwriting and presentation this year, which includes the correct pencil grip and a good handwriting position. I will be awarding handwriting points throughout the year and when the children have earned six points, they will be awarded a pen licence. Once your child has their pen licence, 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.

Curriculum

In English, our focus will be on inference, making predictions, asking questions and looking at the relationship between illustration and text, using the excellent work of Anthony Browne. The children will use drama and ICT to explore their ideas further. The children will study the features of a newspaper report and then write their own, compare formal and informal language by writing diary entries in role as characters, write a prequel and a sequel to a story and discuss themes in books by the same author. Alongside this work, the children will focus on a different spelling pattern each week which will be reinforced by handwriting practice. They will also continue to develop their grammar and punctuation skills to enhance the technical side of their writing.

Maths lessons will be cover place value, addition and subtraction, problem solving, symmetry and shape this term. We will also look at different methods of calculating while building confidence in mental maths. Please continue to support your child in learning their times tables. Being able to recall times table facts and number bonds quickly is extremely helpful for your child's progress in maths and will support our weekly X-Factor sessions.

Our science topic this term is Light. Other topics this year will include animals including humans, rocks and fossils, plants, magnets and forces. Many of these topics will be enhanced by our new outdoor wildlife learning space, which we are extremely excited about

Our history topic this term will be the Romans. Later in the year we will study the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age.

In geography we will investigate London and Canada, in particular looking at Native Americans and exploring traditions and culture. We will use our fabulous new outdoor area for fieldwork, map making, measuring and recording data and compass skills.

The class are very lucky to have Mrs. Thandi to teach their French lessons, which will began last week. The children are learning how to meet and greet each other before moving on to numbers, colours and calendar.

Our theme for RE this term is 'Does taking bread and wine show that someone is a Christian?' We will explore the ritual of communion and other ways Christians might show they belong to the church.

We will look at how it feels to do or start something new and identify ways in which we can cope with these feelings during our PHSE lessons. We will also focus on the value of kindness and friendship. As the nights begin to draw in, we will have a Road Safety session to ensure your child understands the importance of being seen.

The children have been given sketch books this year which they will take with them through to Year 6. They will use their sketch books for drawing, watercolour painting and design.

Your child's progress will continue to be closely tracked during their time in Gosling Class. Your child has already undertaken a diagnostic spelling test to ensure they start their weekly spelling lists at the correct place. These weekly spellings follow specific spelling patterns. At the beginning of each term, your child will be given a Spelling Star list compiled of words that Year 3 are expected to spell. They will then be tested on their Spelling Stars during the final week. A Parallel Spelling test of 40 previously unseen words will be carried out each term. As in previous years, your child will be assessed using PUMA maths assessments and PiRA reading assessments at Christmas, Easter and in June.

Once again, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact. I look forward to meeting you formally at Parents Evening.

Yours faithfully,

Yolande Brown

<p>Teal Spelling Star Words Term 1</p>
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<p>achieve</p>

<p>ancient</p>

<p>arrive</p>

<p>beautiful</p>

<p>bicycle</p>

century
colourful
describe
different
disappear
excitement
experience
famous
friend
imagine
island
minute
our
special
strength