

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

### Class 3 – Spring Terms 3 and 4 2015

#### Literacy

This term we will be using myths and legends as our texts and looking at their themes, followed by learning how to follow and write instructions and enjoy comic poetry. We will continue to follow the 'Jolly Phonics' spelling scheme, and we are pleased that most of the children are becoming familiar with the way this works and are working hard on using the 'Look, read, cover, write and check' method to practice their spelling each evening. If your child does not have a spelling LCWC sheet each Monday, please ask one of the staff –there are also spares on the Notice Board. Learning these weekly spellings is a vital part of our Literacy strategy and we are pleased to see that some children are becoming much more confident spellers as a result. Some children are also taking part in the Codebreakers and Toe by Toe schemes – all measures which ensure children are working to their full potential in Literacy.

The importance of reading TO the children and hearing them read cannot be over stressed. In these busy times, we appreciate that time is short, but this does make a huge difference to their reading confidence and ability. Recording these times in their Reading diaries enables us to co ordinate the home and school experiences. This year there is a big focus on speaking and performance. You could support your child at home by asking them about their day or encouraging them to discuss a story they have read. This all helps with their comprehension of texts and support their ability to talk effectively and clearly.

#### Numeracy

This term's numeracy topics include place value, addition and subtraction of numbers, measurement, shape and space, multiplication, fractions and understanding time. We are continuing to reinforce the children's tables skills and we have been pleased with the results. This term we will also be introducing more mental arithmetic sessions, to help the children gain more confidence. Thank you for continuing to support your child, by encouraging them to work out simple calculations in their heads and practising their tables. In addition to the weekly homework practice at home in learning and using tables, handling money and checking number bonds is always valued, together with an awareness of the clock and at what time different things happen.

#### Science

We have started this term by studying 'Light' and I have been very impressed with some of the children's knowledge and memory. A lovely sunny day last week enabled the Year 4 children to record their shadows and see how they change over time. We are looking at different materials and sorting them into 'transparent, translucent and opaque'. We will also be learning about white light and how it can be split into the colours of the spectrum. After the February break we will be looking at 'Soils, Rocks and Minerals' which the children usually find fascinating. If you are visiting other areas of the country in the next few weeks we would appreciate a small rock sample particular to the area so that we can add them to our school collection. These enable us to test different rocks and contrast them with rocks found nearby. We will learn about the rock cycle and the different types of rock – sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic.

**Mrs Pearson**

#### ICT

We continue to use ICT in all areas of the curriculum and make full use of the interactive whiteboard and Internet. The children are becoming more proficient at creating posters and information sheets from information and pictures they find. Every Monday during compute time, the children are using a new online programme called 'Purple Mash' which has a fantastic array of online tools and programmes which helps to support children in all areas of the curriculum. There is also a big push to use coding in the new ICT curriculum, and the children are having lots of fun using this programme to move characters and images around the screen. Each day the children continue to use the EasiMaths individual program and this certainly helps consolidate their learning. This is also available for children to use at home. Please encourage your child to use the computer at home for word writing activities, as well as games- a brilliant site for typing practice is the BBC one : <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

## **Geography**

During this term, we will be learning about maps and mapping. This topic provides children with a great opportunity to look at large scale world maps as well as becoming familiar with the local area. The children will have the opportunity to use keys, understand the grids on an OS map and also physical landscape features. Later on in the topic, the children will also be able to design and create their own map of Fringford. We welcome children bringing in resource information from books and the Internet and we are pleased that they are so enthusiastic. In order that they fully understand and can read such material, please help them by reading it through with them before they bring it into school. They are then able to share it confidently with the rest of the class.

## **RE and PHSE**

Christianity is our key religion this term, looking at the life of Jesus and the events of his life. This will lead us to an exploration of the Easter story. We will be incorporating the teachings of Jesus in our PHSE lessons and discovering how they relate to our lives today. Circle time will be a big focus within Class 3 this term to support children with their emotional development and gain an understanding of relationships with key people in their lives.

## **Art and Design Technology**

Much of the art work this term will be based around our Ancient Greek literacy topic. Much of what we know about the Ancient Greeks came from a study of their pottery and artefacts, and we will do the same. Also their myths are a powerful source of inspiration for portraiture and descriptive work. Later in the term, our D.T project will be designing and making Pop-up cards, and if you have any unwanted used birthday or gift cards, particularly those with moving mechanisms we would be very glad to have them. There is an art club on Thursdays in Class 3.

## **Music and Drama**

Our drama lessons in the first part of term will be focused on the legends of Ancient Greece – beginning with the story of Pandora's Box and Icarus. Our class music will be based on telling stories through descriptive sound, learning more about tone, timbre and rhythm in the process.

## **PE**

We will continue to develop physical skills with a range of equipment and in a variety of situations including pairs and small groups. In PE we will focus on balance, movement and agility in Gymnastics and Fitness sessions on sessions on Fridays, once the Friday swimming sessions have finished. We shall continue to use Dance as a means of expression and will work individually, in pairs and in larger groups. On Wednesday afternoons we are focussing on games skills with the coach from Ignite Sports. There is an after-school club on Tuesdays for football.

**French** Taken by Mrs Plumbe on alternate Wednesday afternoons and incorporating rhymes and songs.

## **General Class information**

We are still surprised to find that many children do not have their all clothing and equipment named. This is a great help in identifying found and lost items and especially important now most of the class are wearing school fleeces and sweatshirts. Since the weather is likely to be chilly for a while, please ensure that your child has a coat or fleece to wear at playtime and both indoor and outdoor PE kit at school every day. It is good to see that all the children have their own pencil cases and most have become very responsible about looking after them. Class 3 would like to again stress the importance of reading TO your child and also hearing them read at LEAST 3 times a week. We would also like to remind you that Maths and Literacy homework is due in every Tuesday and this should be completed to your child's best ability.

Thank you for your continued help and support,

Miss Emily Hutt– Class Teacher

Mrs Nicola Biltcliffe and Mrs Susan Coleman – Teaching Assistants