

## Curriculum Overview

### Summer Terms 2015 Class 3

#### Humanities:

The topic this term is 'The World and its Wonders' where we have the opportunity to look at and explore the physical wonders of the world. These include volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes and tornadoes. We will explore the layers of the earth and investigate how plate tectonics impact on earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. We will then take a closer look inside a volcano and develop a scientific understanding of pressure, magma and lava flow and how these contribute to fascinating but devastating eruptions. Towards the end of the first term, the children will put on a show of their own volcanic eruption where they will be given the opportunity to explain and demonstrate their knowledge with others.

In Term 6 we will take a closer look at earthquakes and explore how plate movements cause these. We will then take a closer look at a specific case study and develop our enquiry skills to explore the impact of these earthquakes on people and the environment. If you would like a trip to London, the Natural History Museum has an amazing set of displays and simulators for your children to explore. Thank you to all families who have allowed one of our Class Bears to accompany them on outings and holidays –they have certainly been well travelled.

#### Science:

In Science this term our topic will be '**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. We have already started our investigations and the children are really enjoying it. We switched our topics round to fit in with the Humanities topic this term and so our topic of 'Characteristics of Materials' took place last term in the form of an extended investigation into 'Teddy's Rainhat'.

Later in the Summer we will learn about '**Plants and how they grow**'.

Mrs Pearson

#### Computing:

We will continue to develop Computing skills using computers across the curriculum and accessing the Internet. The school website is now up and running and the children access it regularly in school. However, please encourage your child to log on and access the activities which we have put on there for them and share the news and photos of school events. Websites which we use in school are available in the Document Library section. The children can also access 'Easimaths' which is an online learning system to develop basic maths skills. In our discrete Computing sessions the children will continue to explore and develop coding where they will be able to generate their own algorithms to create an online system.

#### Numeracy:

This term's topics include place value, addition of numbers, measurement of capacity and area, shape and space, multiplication, fractions and handling data. Our Numeracy plans are giving the children plenty of practical experience of handling numbers and the increased focus on mental arithmetic skills means that most of the Year 4's and some of the Year 3's now manage number bonds and tables without the assistance of table squares. Of course, parental encouragement to practice these skills is, as always, much valued. Your child may have brought home a Precision Table sheet to help them learn a table that they are finding tricky, and they will show you how to do this with them.

Homework, reflecting the work done in class, will continue to be given each Tuesday. If your child finds the homework sheet particularly taxing, please do let us know. It may be best tackled at the weekend – after the work has been covered in class. Homework club is on a Friday lunchtime to offer additional support if your child is finding a topic particularly difficult.

## **Literacy:**

We start this term by looking at adventure and mystery stories – always popular! This will be followed by a couple of weeks using humorous poetry as our texts, followed by looking at the work of Dick King -Smith, which is usually well received, particularly by the Year 3's. Please direct your children towards these types of fiction when looking for books at home, in the Library or in shops. They are becoming more familiar with the different genres (categories) of books now, so you may hear them refer to different books as "fantasy", "historical" "familiar" and so forth. After half term the topics will be more non-fiction based – looking at advertising, taking notes, writing letters and using a dictionary effectively.

The Jolly Grammar spelling scheme continues and together with half termly "Spelling Health Checks" on the words that children have mis-spelt in their work, we hope that progress is being made with improving spelling standard in KS 2. Thank you for helping your child to 'Look, Cover, Write and Check' most evenings. If your child does not have a spelling sheet on Mondays, please ask one of the staff –there are also spares on the Notice Board. Learning these fortnightly spellings is a vital part of our Literacy strategy and we are pleased to see that some children are becoming more confident spellers as a result.

You may have noticed that we have a heavy focus on grammar and this is to support your child's basic knowledge of literacy at sentence level to correlate with the new curriculum. If you notice that your child is struggling particularly in this area on the homework, then again please let staff know so that we can support your child. Thank you for continuing to hear your child read. This extra support from home will develop your child's reading and comprehension to allow them to delve deeper and understand the richer text types.

## **Art and Design Technology:**

Art projects this term involve looking at images, Matisse and Van Gogh. The children will study the careful detail and techniques of these artists' landscape drawings. They will then transfer and develop these skills by creating their own explosive volcanic picture scene. There is a super exhibition of the Great British painters including Turner and Hockney at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford that would be useful to see if you have the time.

## **RE and PHSE:**

Islam is our key religion this term, looking at the life of Muhammad and the events of his life. We will also be covering issues such as relationships with siblings, self - esteem, and using our talents in PHSE.

## **Music and Drama:**

We will be learning more about mark making, composition, timbre and dynamics to develop and create our own explosive volcano eruption. We use drama in literacy to support and explore the plot and theme in our story studied, 'Escape from Pompeii'.

**French** Mrs Plumbe will continue teaching the class French on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

## **PE and Games:**

We will continue to develop physical skills with a range of equipment and in a variety of situations including pairs and small groups. Now that we are approaching summer we hope to be outdoors as much as possible and will be practising our Rounders, Cricket, Tennis and Athletic skills. Could parents please ensure children have their kit ready for Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Please also ensure that kit is clearly labelled to avoid miscellaneous odds and ends at the end of term.

Miss Hutt (Class Teacher)

Mrs Biltcliffe

Mrs Coleman (Teaching Assistants)

