

# CURRICULUM INFORMATION

## Class 3 - Autumn Terms 1 and 2 2014

### Literacy

We start this term by looking at familiar authors including texts by Michael Foreman. Watch out as the classroom might turn into a jungle when we look at the story 'Dinosaurs and all that rubbish!' This will be followed by instructional texts, explanations, poetry which creates images and letter writing. Further practice in sounds and word building will be developed by the use of ICT and word games. The children will also be reading texts which are relevant to the World Wars 1 and 2 topic and listening to CDs and tapes in the Listening Corner, as listening to stories and poetry is as valuable as reading them.

Please check that your child has a spelling sheet on Mondays and encourage them to "Look, Cover, Write and Check" them every evening. We use the spelling words based around phonics every week and children will be tested on them **each Friday**.

We are grateful to parents for hearing their child read each day – this makes a huge difference to their reading confidence and ability. Throughout the term we will be doing some extra comprehension sessions including Project X, Listening and Thinking and Reading Comprehension with support staff. When hearing your child read, it would be very helpful for parents to ask their child to recount what they have just read, make predictions on what might happen next or comment on the language features.

### Numeracy

This term's topics include place value, addition and subtraction of numbers, measurement of length, shape and space, multiplication, fractions and handling data. The children will also practise their times tables and number bond skills. Homework will be given each week and in addition to this, practise at home in learning and using tables, handling money and checking number bonds is always valued. The children will be set individual Numeracy targets to help them focus their learning and concentrate on specific areas.

Homework, reflecting the work done in class, will be given every week. 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.

### Science

In Science this term our major topic will be **Teeth and Eating** (Snap, Gap and Snack) followed by some work on **Light and Shadows**. In Teeth and Eating we will study teeth in the animal kingdom (carnivores, herbivores and omnivores). We will consider what makes for a well-balanced diet and will discuss the importance of good nutrition (humans). This will present many opportunities for parental involvement, from looking at food information labels with your child, to cooking healthy meals together. Children will learn about the main food groups and how they are used in the body. We will investigate dental health and the importance of caring for our teeth. Parents can also help by reinforcing the importance of brushing and flossing teeth and demonstrating correct brushing techniques. All the children have been given Colgate packs containing a new toothbrush and toothpaste. In our studies into Light and Shadows we will investigate how shadows are created when the light source is blocked and consider how shadows created by the sun change over the course of a day. Children will learn to recognise light sources and to sort materials using the terms transparent, translucent and opaque.

### Humanities

This term Key Stage 2 are going to learn what it was like to live in the early 1900's. This will help the children learn about the effects of the First and Second World War on children in the local area, nationally and internationally. There will also be opportunities to consider the effects of war on children today. We plan to use a range of sources, including the recollections of people alive at the time. As always we are grateful for any input to our Humanities lessons and if you or one of your relatives would be interested to speak to the children about their experiences during this period please let us know.

Quantum Theatre, a London based production group, came in and explored the First World war with us this week. We have also arranged a visit from the Woodstock Museum Education Team after half term. Unfortunately, London is too far to be able to fit in a trip during school hours, but the following are well

worth a visit if you would like to further enhance your child's knowledge at weekends or during holidays.

**Imperial War Museum, London** - <http://london.iwm.org.uk/server/show/conEvent.381>

**IWM Duxford** - <http://duxford.iwm.org.uk/server.php?show=nav.00d>

**The Britain at War Experience, London** - <http://www.britainatwar.co.uk/page1.html>

**The prefab house at The Chiltern Open Air Museum**, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks-<http://www.coam.org.uk/>

### **Computing**

We continue to develop ICT skills by using computers across the curriculum, and through accessing the Internet. Our ICT studies this term will develop our knowledge of Databases and will cover sorting and classifying information, searching a database and branching databases. If you would like to help your children with their typing skills, there are programs such as the BBC 'Dance Mat typing' to help with this <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

In class we use RM Maths daily which is tailored to the individual child and gives them practise across the whole of the maths curriculum. We also use 2Type which helps with keyboard skills. Children also access the Wordshark programme to help them with learning spellings.

### **RE and PHSE**

Judaism is our key religion this term, looking at the life of Abraham and Moses and the events of their lives. We will be incorporating the teachings into our PHSE lessons and discovering how they relate to our lives today. Towards the end of the second term we will of course be covering the Christian festival of Christmas and learning about the Nativity. We will also learn about the different festivals in Europe and further afield. Some of these topics will also be covered in Assemblies.

### **Art and Design Technology**

Art projects this term include basic skills that children need in order to be able to apply their ideas carefully, including painting, colour mixing, creating hues, sketching and blending. We will focus around Kandinsky to help with our ideas. After half term, we will be using different media to record how artists convey atmosphere in their paintings and try to emulate them. In Technology we hope to experiment with cooking using wartime ingredients and compare the results with present day samples. We will also have the chance to grow our own vegetables and potatoes to relive how rationing really affected children. Teachers would be very grateful for the help of any adults who would like to cook, sew or paint with us one afternoon a week. Please let us know.

### **P.E and SPORTS**

We will continue to develop physical skills with a range of equipment and in a variety of situations including pairs and small groups. During the year we will be having additional coaching in specific skills and sports provided by the North Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership. In P.E. this term we will be focusing on dance and movement, working individually and in small groups. In Games we will be outdoors as often as the weather permits where we will practice our football, netball and hockey skills. On Wednesdays the children will have coaching from the Ignite coach. It is important that all children remember their P.E. kits on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please note, extra swimming will take place on Fridays this term for Year 4 children. It is only in January that the whole class will be swimming.

### **Music and Drama**

Our drama and dance lessons are linked to our Humanities topic and we will be learning some of the traditional country dances which 1900's children would have learnt and singing some of the songs which were popular in the era.

### Helpers

**We welcome parent /grandparent helpers in Class 3. Please let us know if you can spare an hour once a week to help with reading, sewing, cookery – or wherever your skills lie.**

Miss Emily Hutt Class Teacher

Our Teaching Assistants for Class 3 are Mrs Biltcliffe, Mrs Coleman and Mrs Honour