



# Year 3

## Newsletter - Autumn 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school. We hope you all enjoyed a restful and fun summer holiday and like us are excited about this new school year.

Moving to Year 3 is the next part of your child's learning journey. They are now in Key Stage 2 and are expected to become more independent and take on responsibilities throughout the school. Part of this new independence is coming into school on their own, putting their bags in lockers and coming into class to settle to their morning challenge. The teaching staff will be waiting in the area outside the classrooms in the mornings to greet the children, whilst quiet morning learning takes place in the classrooms under the supervision of Teaching Assistants. Being Alphington, we still want you to feel that you can talk to us about concerns you may have. Whilst the building work continues, we are available by scheduled appointment so please ring to book a time to see us. After half term, feel free to pop in in the mornings and afternoons—we will be around.

To reflect the growing maturity of the children and demands of the curriculum, we will no longer be spending time doing 'Show and Tell'. It is in the children's interest if they do not bring toys or other things such as cards to school. Inevitably these things either get lost or become an unwelcome distraction to learning. Of course any certificates or other achievements can still be celebrated in our regular assemblies. Also, in KS2 children will need to bring in their own snack for break time—a healthy fruit based snack is ideal.

### Autumn Themes

We begin with an art-based theme which allows us to learn about different artists and their representations of animals. Our Key Question will be: **How does a picture paint 1,000 words?** Our hook for this theme will be a Music day centred on the Carnival of the Animals. The final outcome for this theme will involve the children painting their own animal paintings in the style of an artist studied. These paintings will then be shared at the KS2 Art Gallery, accompanied by the children's musical compositions, which they created at the start of the unit. During the second half of the Autumn term, we will continue to use animals as a starting point for learning, this time with a focus on philosophical discussions to answer the Key Question: **Do animals have a right to be deadly?** Through this question, we will be exploring different animal charities whilst also applying our design skills in D+T where we will design, make and evaluate an animal home. Running alongside this work will be our English topic using the text '100 most deadly animals on the planet' (hence the Key Question!). The final outcome will be writing and filming a Year 3 version of the 'Deadly 60' TV show. The science topic of 'Animals including humans' links nicely with this theme.



### English and Maths

We teach English and Maths everyday in Year 3. Our first English unit of work will be based around the Rio Olympics and the BBC's fantastic animated video of the Brazilian animals transforming into determined athletes. Through this unit, we will be developing children's ability to use precise vocabulary and will be allowing them to explore a viewpoint in writing. After this, we will be using the stimulus of Theatre Alibi's captivating production *The boy who climbed into the moon* as a starting point to create narrative pieces, giving children the chance to use complex sentences to add details about time and place. After half term, we have a Non-fiction topic based upon the *100 most deadly animals on the planet* by Anna Claybourne followed by a Fiction topic using the brilliant *King of the Birds* by Helen Ward.

Maths will follow a structured sequence focusing first on Number Sense and Reasoning, through to Place Value, Graphs, Addition & Subtraction and finally Length & Perimeter. We will be continuing with a Pause, Practise, Push approach to maths, allowing all children to succeed. We will also have daily 'Maths Meetings': 10-minute sessions providing opportunities for consolidation of key skills whilst also ensuring full participation and enjoyment through Mathematical songs, rhymes and chants.

In line with the high expectations of the National Curriculum, we will also be delivering stand-alone spelling sessions and also grammar sessions too (SPAG). Spelling will follow a year-long pathway, developing children's knowledge of prefixes (such as unhappy, disappoint) and suffixes (buses, happily) amongst other spelling patterns, whilst SPAG continues to develop your child's understanding of grammar, particularly sentence structure (from simple, to compound and complex sentences) and complex punctuation (didn't, girls', girl's).

### Home Learning

Home learning will be given to the children on a **Thursday** and we ask for it to be returned by the following **Wednesday**. It will consist of a SPAG task which will reflect the learning we have completed that week, so your child should be familiar with it. Usually this takes the form of a spelling pattern focussed on that week (eg - the prefix dis\_ can spell: dishonest, disobey etc.). Your child will also bring home 4 of their own spellings, selected by them from their individual spelling list they are currently working on. Please feel free to make comments on the home learning sheets, as it helps us to know how confident your child was completing the task.

### Reading Quest Books

In Key Stage 2, the children have Reading Quest Books to record their reading daily. They have incentives to help them build up the time they read, including certificates and book tokens. Please ensure that they **read for 15 minutes a night** and that even if they are independent readers you ask them questions about what they are reading and what has happened in the book.



The Quest Book needs to be in school everyday. We will read with each child during the week as part of Guided Reading. On a **Wednesday**, we collect the Quest Books, check how much reading has taken place that week and sign it off. (Please see additional Quest Book sheet for further information).

### PE

PE will be on Tuesdays and Fridays. Until half term, Tuesdays will be swimming with Mrs Bradford and the children will need their swimming kit as normal. Friday afternoons will be outdoor games and the children will need their PE kit and trainers. As we move towards the colder months the children are welcome to wear leggings and hoodies. These can stay in their PE bags with the rest of their kit in their lockers. There is no requirement for gum shields or shin pads at this stage; this tends to be used more in upper Key Stage 2.



### Staffing

We are very lucky in Year 3. Not only will Miss Roderick and Miss Morgan be working very closely to ensure an engaging and rigorous curriculum is delivered to all children, but we have Mrs Cram and Mrs Long working across Year 3 as well. Mrs Cram will be with us every morning. She will be supporting in Maths lessons whilst also delivering intervention in both Mathematical key skills and writing across the year group. Mrs Cram will also be covering Miss Morgan's NQT release time on Monday afternoons and so will be teaching 3M. Mrs Long will be with us on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday mornings to support English and also to deliver Mathematical key skills and writing intervention. In addition, she will be providing support in English - both reading and writing skills - on a Thursday afternoon. As well as PE with Mrs Bradford, the children will be taught RE by Mrs Newell on Tuesday afternoons. Specialist French teaching will also be provided by Mrs Fidler on Wednesday mornings, allowing Miss Morgan and Miss Roderick intervention time outside the classroom to work more closely with children. We are very proud of the team we have in Year 3 and will work tirelessly to ensure the children receive the very best.

If you have any free time and feel you could volunteer to help in the classrooms, please let us know. We really appreciate any support we can have, however great or small this may be.

Thank you

The Year 3 Team

Miss Roderick, Miss Morgan, Mrs Cram and Mrs Long