



# Year 3

## Half Termly Update

### Spring Term 1

Dear Parents,

Firstly, happy new year to you all. The Year 3 team are looking forward to continuing working with such a kind and caring cohort of young hard-working learners on their educational journey. We have planned a wonderful term for the children and are very excited. P.E. takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure your child comes to school in their P.E. kit on these days. Please check the website and your emails regularly for any updates and key dates.

#### English -Writing

We are starting the new year writing a narrative based on a short animation called *The Arctic Circle*. Following that, the children will be writing a story based on *The Worst Witch* by *Jill Murphy*. This book provides inspiration for the children to write their own stories using interesting adjectives and exciting verbs. It is also a good chance to show off the grammar skills that we have learnt. We will rehearse sentences using interesting vocabulary, describe a character and setting and follow the rules for adding speech using inverted commas.

#### English -Reading

In reading, we will be reading an excellent book this half term called *The Worst Witch* by *Jill Murphy*. We will be focusing on the children's comprehensions skills, making sure that not only can they read fluently but also that they understand what they are reading. We will think about the meaning of new vocabulary and the strategies we can use to understand unfamiliar words, as well as explain the meaning of new words. Please make sure that you read with your child every day and ask questions about the books they are reading at home.

#### Maths

At the beginning of the year, we will be revising and building important foundations for the year ahead. This half term the children will be looking at fractions, multiplication and division. The children will start by building on their prior learning about fractions. They will compare and order fractions and develop their understanding of the whole, the numerator, the denominator and equivalent fractions. We will then move on to refreshing their multiplication and division strategies and then move onto multiplying 2 digits by 1 digit. We will be using the grid method, exploring related calculations and developing understanding of scaling. We will also develop our reasoning skills.

## Science

In Science, we will learn that we need light in order to see things and that dark is the absence of light. We will investigate how light is reflected on different surfaces and also recognise that shadows are formed when the light from a light source is blocked by a solid object. We will set up an enquiry to find patterns in how the size of shadows changes. We will learn that light from the sun can be dangerous and that there are ways to protect our eyes.

## Music

In their Music lessons this half term, the children will be singing in unison and becoming aware of pitch. They will be performing together and focusing on rhythm and how to use it.

## Homework

Homework is given out weekly and children must complete their spellings, reading and maths tasks. Children should spend some time on Doodle Maths every day so that they are in the green zone.

## History

Our History focus this half term is on the Stone Age. First, we will be creating cave paintings. Then, the children will learn about the daily life of people living in the Stone Age. They will debate whether the Stone Age man was just a simple hunter gatherer interested in food shelter, or if there was more to the day-to-day life of the Stone Age man. They will learn about the fascinating Stonehenge and provide theories as to why Stonehenge was made. They will delve further into the Stone Age through a study of Skara Brae. To conclude the unit, the children will also learn about the Bronze and Iron Age.

## RE

For our RE topic this half term, we are developing our knowledge of religious festivals and why they are important to religious communities. Children will make connections between stories, symbols and beliefs in Easter and Passover. They will ask questions and give ideas about what matters most to believers in festivals. As well as this, they will identify similarities and differences in the way that festivals are celebrated within and between religions.

## P.E.

As part of their PE lessons, Year 3 will learn how to trust and work as part of a team, supporting their other team members to complete tasks. Year 3 will work on their language skills to communicate effectively with their teammates and jointly solve problems using reasoning. There will also be a focus on coordination and improve their multitasking skills. They will be using different sized balls, starting with smaller balls and then working their way up to bigger balls, developing their control and fine motor skills.