

Year 3 Autumn Term Curriculum

Welcome to St Lawrence School and Year 3! We hope you have all had a fabulous summer and that your child is enjoying the start of a new and exciting year. We have had a great beginning to the year and we are all enjoying getting to know the children. We understand that there will be lots of new things for the children to get used to and lots of information that will be sent home. Please make sure you check book bags daily to ensure you don't miss anything. This newsletter will give you an outline of the work that we will be covering this term in Year 3. If you can help with reading, or have any particular interest in any area outlined below and would like to come in and share experiences or resources with the children, it would be very much appreciated.

English

In English this term we will be covering a range of different genres, including fiction, reports and poetry. Our class texts will be *The Hodgeheg* by Dick King Smith and *the Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, which we will also be using for Whole-Class Guided Reading. Within English lessons, there will be a strong emphasis on punctuation, spelling and grammar. The children will be introduced to a new spelling rule every week and will be given words to learn related to this. There will also be a selection of words from the Year 3/4 statutory word list to learn at home. This year we have introduced Spelling Shed, which is an online spelling resource which helps children to learn spellings through various fun games and activities. Please encourage your child to make use of this at home. The children will all have a stage book to read at school and at home and will soon be able to enjoy books from our school library which they can visit during their lunch time on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please make sure that your child reads with an adult on a daily basis for at least 5 minutes and sign your child's Home-School Contact Book. This will be checked every day and children who read every day could earn a reward! If children have not read or have not had their book signed, they will be asked to stay in at lunch time to read for five minutes. Reading is an essential skill, upon which we place a strong emphasis, and we hope you will support us in this.

Mathematics

We will be continuing with the "Mastery" approach to teaching Maths, so Maths is taught in mixed-ability classes with the children broadly moving on at the same pace. We have all been very encouraged by the success of this and the ways it has deepened the children's mathematical understanding. The focus for this term's work is number, including mental and written strategies for all four number operations, place value, ordering, estimating and rounding. If your child cannot yet tell the time, it would be very helpful if you could start practising this skill at home - both for Maths, but also as a life skill! All pupils will continue to learn and consolidate their multiplication tables and division facts, which will be tested through our Speed Table activity. We are aiming for instant recall of times tables so it is important to revisit and consolidate tables rather than just learning them "for the test". Attached to this newsletter are the KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts) for this half term in Year 3. These are key facts that the children must master to be able to move through the curriculum smoothly and need to be practised at home. Throughout this year, 'Mathletics' - an online maths challenge website - will play a key part in maths. This is something that can be done both at home and in school and logins have already been given out to the children. In addition to this, we subscribe to Times Tables Rock Stars, which is a fantastic Times Table resource. Logins will be given out for this in due course.

Science

Our first science topic this term is about plants, their life cycle and how to help them grow well. This will include a trip to Kew Gardens, when the children will become "Plant Scientists". Our second topic is called "Earth Rocks", which looks at the different types of rocks and soils on our planet and how they are created. This includes making our own "fossils"!

R.E.

Children will be encouraged to reflect on and respond to the question "What is God like?". Later in the term, we will explore how the Bible guides Christians in different aspects of their faith. To end the year with a festive theme, we will consider "what Jesus might think about Christmas".

Computing

The children will learn how to access our virtual learning environment (VLE) by using their own username and password, which can be found in the front of their reading records. They will also be introduced to Mathletics, Times Tables Rock Stars and Spelling Shed. Later in the term, they will learn about simple methods of coding to create their own programmes and word processing skills.

Art/ Design & Technology

In Art the children will be learning the basics of colour mixing and painting skills. Later in the term, we will be doing some cooking and then investigating levers in DT, linking in with a Christmas theme.



History

We are going way back in time for our history topic this term to the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We will be investigating how ancient peoples lived in their day-to-day lives and compare it to how we live now. The children will be looking at how archaeologists find out about the past and the different types of evidence that give us information. We will be having a visiting workshop from Chertsey Museum and also having a "Prehistoric Day" when we can all try to experience what life was like in ancient times!



French

Simple phrases, questions and greetings will be introduced to the children this term and will be used within the school whenever appropriate. They will use the Rigolo programme and will become very familiar with a French dragon called Bof!

Life Skills (PSHE)

Using a national programme we consider topics related to settling in, setting rules and building good relationships. We will also be looking at society in the wider sense and investigating British values

Music

Using the Music Express scheme of work, children will be exploring descriptive sounds, using animals as their inspiration. They will also have an opportunity to use a range of pitched and non-pitched instruments to explore, compose and perform rhythm patterns.



Homework

In addition to spellings, times table practice and reading, children will be expected to complete homework each week. This will be given out on Wednesdays and is due in on Mondays. It will always include some Maths "fluency" questions which the children should spend no longer than 15 minutes on. In addition, there will be an English or topic task. We expect the children to spend up to 45 minutes on their homework. If your child is spending a lot more (or a lot less) time than this, please tell your class teacher.

Physical Education

This term we are very fortunate to have Mr Paddington and also ESP - both external specialist PE coaches - who will be taking some extra PE sessions. In our games sessions, we are working on ball skills and hand-eye coordination. There will also be a focus on gym for indoor sessions, followed by aerobics lessons! Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in school every day, which is clearly named (including shoes!) and includes trousers or leggings for cooler days. Earrings cannot be worn during these sessions, so please make sure that they have either been removed before school or your child can take them out on their own.

Reminders

- All equipment, including PE kit, must be named
- Daily reading and sign the Home-School Book
- Bring in a labelled water bottle, even on cooler days
- Lockers cannot accommodate large bags.
- No toys or novelty items in school, as these can cause distraction and often cause unnecessary upset if lost or broken.
- Summer uniform may be worn until half-term
- Please encourage independence in your child by saying goodbye in the main playground.

Weekly Diary

Monday	Homework due in Wrens/Robins PE
Tuesday	
Wednesday	Homework given out Swifts PE
Thursday	Wrens/Swifts/ Robins - PE
Friday	Wrens/Swifts/Robins - PE



We are really looking forward to working in partnership with you to provide a fun, fulfilling and progressive year for your child. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Whitfield (Robins)

Miss Huffer (Swifts)

Mrs Cary/Miss Carter (Wrens)