



Downside Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers of Year 3 Children,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back after the holidays; it is nice to see the children enthusiastic, ready to learn and smartly dressed in their school uniform.

Continuing with our creative curriculum, our topics for this term are 'The Hatters' (a study of the hat industry in Luton) followed by a study of the book *Varjak Paw* by S F Said. Much of our writing will be linked to these: the children will write information texts about Luton, explore a poem about hats and write a story based in a Victorian factory.

In Numeracy, we will continue to focus on learning our times tables. By the end of Year 3, the children are expected to quickly recall the 2x, 3x, 4x, 5x, 8x and 10x tables and their division facts: please support this by ensuring your child practises these at home. We will be using this knowledge to teach the formal written methods for multiplication and division and children do struggle if they do not know their times tables. During the term, we will also solve money problems and look at different types of graphs. In the second half of the term, we will return to developing a greater understanding of fractions.

Our science topic for the Spring Term is based on Electricity. We will construct simple series circuits, identifying and naming their basic parts. We will also look at some common conductors and insulators. Our topic will culminate in us solving a problem by creating a simple alarm. If you would like to touch on the Electricity topic at home, check out the BBC Bitesize Science site: <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zj44jxs>

In PE, the children will practise the skills necessary for playing basketball and learn to choose appropriate tactics and strategies to play invasion games. The children will also be introduced to the basic principles and skills of gymnastics. In the following half term the children will begin to look at the skills used in indoor golf and ultimate frisbee.

Our RE for the first half term is focused on Christianity. The children will learn to answer the question: What is the 'Trinity' and why is it important to Christians? During the second half term, the children will be thinking about why some people think life is a journey and how and why people mark the significant events in their lives.

In ICT, the children will learn how to efficiently collect and analyse data and how to communicate safely via the internet.



Spanish lessons will continue and the children will apply the words they have already learnt so they can speak in full sentences. To practise Spanish at home have a look at: <https://www.spanish-games.net/spanishgames>

In Music, the children will continue with drumming lessons, practising different rhythms. They will also be learning how to sing a scale in tune.

The children will have regular access to a laptop and use software and the internet to research topics in other subjects. Please encourage your child to use Mathletics and Times Tables Rock Stars at home to support their learning.

The children receive homework tasks on their rainbow homework menu as well as Maths and Literacy homework weekly. They also need to continue to practise their weekly spellings and times tables at home. If you could support your child with these, listen to them read on a regular basis and discuss the books they have read and the work they do in school, then it will really help their learning and enable them to make the most of school.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the support from Parents and Carers so far this year. We hope you continue to work with us to ensure your child reaches their full potential. Can I remind you that the Year 3 page on our website is a very useful resource that can be found at: <http://downside-primary.co.uk/the-curriculum/year-3> This page is updated weekly so please have a look when you get a chance. On the page, we have an overview of learning over the week, The Spring term spelling list, the Rainbow Homework menu and Grammar and Numeracy support. I have also included three new sections: Mindfulness ideas, a recipe of the week and teacher book recommendations. Please have a nose!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Ali
Year 3 Leader