



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 to school and thank you for your support and patience with us in the first few days. It has been truly wonderful to have everyone back; to see them smiling, enjoying their learning and playing with their friends. I am pleased with how well they have listened and how quickly they are getting used to working in a new year group.

In Literacy this half term, we will be focusing on activities that will help the children construct sentences and will be investigating past and present tense verbs as well as adjectives. Children will write their own information reports about nocturnal animals as well as write fantasy setting descriptions. The last two weeks will focus on character descriptions. We will support them in beginning to organise their writing into paragraphs. After half term, the focus moves to explanation texts, poetry and using speech in adventure stories.

All the children will have regular handwriting practice. The children will learn rules and patterns to help them spell words and then apply them in their written work. They will then complete a spelling test at the end of the half term. During the first half term, we will be reading 'Hodge-Heg' by Dick King-Smith and then, next half term, 'Me and Mister P' by Maria Farrer. The children will be focusing on improving a range of reading skills during these reading sessions.

In Numeracy, we will start the year with a recap of the calculation strategies the children used in Year 2 for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We will then be securing the children's understanding of place value, using visual resources to help children understand what a number looks like. We will also be developing their understanding of the 4 operations (+, -, x and ÷) using mental and written methods at a Year 3 level. Children will then use this knowledge to develop their reasoning and problem solving skills. We would appreciate any help that you can offer at home to reinforce the skills being taught. Times tables will have a particular focus and will be rehearsed daily. Children will learn their 4 and 8 times tables this year as well as developing their knowledge of the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables.



In Science, the children will learn that animals, including humans, need the right amount of nutrition and that they cannot make their own food. The children will also learn about the basic parts of the digestive system in humans including the different types of teeth and their functions. After half term, we will be learning to recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. Finally, we will be finding out that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement.

Our first topic for this year is 'The Stone Age', looking at the three periods of time which cover the Stone Age. We will be learning how humans survived the Stone Age using tools and the development of materials, hunting and being resourceful. In ICT, the children will then create a presentation about an aspect of the Stone Age using 'Keynote' on their iPads. They will be learning different techniques when using clay to create their own sculpture of a Stone Age home. We are also looking forward to some hands on learning with this topic and will keep you posted. Next half term, we will be moving on to study the 'Polar Regions' and their different environments and climates.

In the first half term in PE, children will be developing their skills in athletics and tagging games. Next half term, children will be introduced to the basic principles and skills of gymnastics and hockey. On your child's PE days, please can you send your child to school wearing their full PE kit (black/grey leggings/ tracksuit bottoms, white t-shirt, school jumper/ plain dark top and trainers)

RE for this half term will have the children thinking about why people worship and learning about how and where worship takes place. Next half term, we will be moving onto showing how we care for others. During PHSE lessons, we will be thinking about different emotions and continuing our Mind Up work.

We are excited at the prospect of our Year 3 children learning Spanish. We are all looking forward to learning about Spanish culture and greetings. Children will receive weekly Drumming lessons from the Luton Music Service and music theory lessons with Mr Guy, our specialist music teacher.

Please encourage your child to read daily and use the logins for a range of websites to support their learning at home, these can be found in their 'Home Contact Book'. A healthy snack e.g. fruit, nuts, yogurt may be brought in by your child to eat during morning break. Your child will receive weekly Homework via Google Classroom. One piece will focus on the Maths skills taught in class and the other on either writing skills or comprehension. If electronic homework poses any problem for you or your child, please speak to the class teacher or teaching assistant and something different can be organised.

We look forward to working with you all this term. If you have any further questions about Year 3, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher or me via the year 3 email.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Ali

Year 3 Leader