



Welcome to Year 3



Class Information

2011 - 2012

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Welcome to Year 3

Dear Parents,

Year 3 is the first year in Key Stage 2 and the children have many different routines to get to grips with, including moving to the first floor of the building and taking part in Friday games sessions.

We undertake a variety of active learning projects, which are incorporated into topics such as investigating the lives of the Celts, Romans and Anglo Saxons.

Developing the children's skills in literacy, mathematics and problem-solving continues to be a high priority.

We are really looking forward to this academic year and if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to pop in or make an appointment.

Kind regards,

Mr Christopher Ross

Core Subjects

Literacy

In line with the updated literacy framework, units focus on one particular genre at a time and last between two to four weeks. This will give more time in which to explore texts through speaking and listening activities such as role-playing and 'hot-seating'.

In order to improve the children's writing, we will model sentence and paragraph structure, the use of punctuation and ambitious vocabulary, as well as the re-drafting process. The children will be taught to use a thesaurus independently so that they can include a range of interesting words in their writing.

Reading

Due to our busy timetable, it is not possible for us to hear your child read on an individual basis every day. However, your child will have the opportunity to read to a parent/volunteer every week and take part in guided reading sessions. Therefore, it is very important that pupils take their reading books and reading records home every night and make sure they are in school every day. As the children become more confident, we will encourage them to become independent readers who will make good use of our library, in addition to books brought from home.

Every day between 8:50 – 9:05am, every child in the school, completes 15 minutes sustained silent reading.

Handwriting

Children are encouraged to take pride in the appearance of their work. Year 3 will have a regular handwriting lesson, based on the school's cursive handwriting scheme.

Mathematics

At Key Stage 2, the children are taught in mathematics sets, which allows teachers to support and challenge pupils according to their individual ability in this subject. Children will take part in a variety of practical, 'hands-on' activities, including use of the interactive whiteboard and apparatus. They will continue to build their repertoire of mental calculation strategies and known number facts, which they will apply to problems, set in 'real-life' contexts.

Science

The children will have a science lesson every week with Mr Marsden, in which investigational skills are developed alongside knowledge and understanding of topics such as 'teeth and eating' and 'magnets and springs'. Group work plays an important part in science lessons and, therefore, an ability to co-operate and work sensibly with others is vital.



Foundation Subjects

Games

On Fridays, your child needs to come to school dressed in his/her Forest Park School (FPS) tracksuit. We would also advise them to bring a bottle of water and their rain jackets, just in case!

Children will need to be collected by you at the end of the day from the Brooklands Sports Club (LA Fitness). Alternatively, you can make arrangements through school for your child to be picked up by the minibus. Sometimes, the girls will stay at school for netball practice, which you will be informed about in advance.

Swimming

Swimming lessons take place on Tuesday mornings at Sale Leisure Centre. Please meet the supervisory teacher at the Centre at 8.30 a.m. and he/she will accompany the children back to school for 10.00 a.m.

Physical Education

The children will also have a half-hour P.E. lesson on a Wednesday mornings with our specialist P.E Teacher. P.E. kits will therefore be needed on Wednesdays.

French

The Year 3 children will have a half-hour French lesson every week, delivered by a specialist teacher. Through interactive games, songs and visual aids, the children will be taught a range of vocabulary and sentence structures related to topics such as 'family', 'food' and 'school subjects'.

Music and Information Communications Technology

Your child will have a music lesson with Mr Ross and an hour's ICT lesson with Miss Corrigan every week. The children will also make use of ICT across the curriculum and have an interactive whiteboard in the classroom, which is used by the children during many lessons.

Humanities

History and geography are taught through a new focus topic each term. For example, we will learn about 'early man' and the lives of the Celts in the Autumn term; within this, we will also cover elements of geography, as well as history, by looking at maps and using geographical knowledge to study an area of a Celtic settlement.

The children will study a range of religious education topics in Year 3, including finding out about festivals and the Bible.

The school follows a set scheme of work for 'personal, social, health and citizenship education'. In Year 3, we cover topics such as 'Choices' and 'Friendships'. We will also find time to consider current affairs through the publication 'First News'.



Design and technology and art, craft and design

These two subjects are taught alternately throughout the year. Sometimes, they link into the other areas of the curriculum; for example, during the Autumn term when we study the Celts, the children will be testing out their weaving skills and using air-dry clay to form their own artefacts.

Homework

Children are set homework every night, except during weeks of examinations. The work should take approximately twenty minutes to complete, although research projects and extended pieces of work should take longer.

Children are also expected to read their home-school reading books for at least ten minutes per night and spend time learning their weekly spellings and times tables. Your child will receive a spellings and times tables book, so that you can support this learning at home.

The children will record their homework tasks in their homework diaries. It is very important that these are in school every day.

Homework timetable

<i>Day</i>	<i>Activity focus</i>
Monday	<u>Literacy</u> The nature of the activity will depend on the stage the class has reached in the current literacy unit. Activities will include comprehension/inference work; sentence and word-level worksheets; and preparing for a speaking and listening activity. However, there is a whole range of ways in which the children could be asked to demonstrate their understanding of a text or issue. Spellings tests will take place on Mondays, after which your child will be given the following week's word list, together with appropriate sentence level work. <u>Mathematics</u> A range of mathematics work will be given to underpin your child's basic numeracy skills and/or to reinforce the day's lesson.
Tuesday	<u>Mathematics</u> A range of mathematics work will be given to underpin your child's basic numeracy skills and/or to reinforce the day's lesson. Times tables tests will take place on Tuesday mornings, following our return from Sale Leisure Centre.

Wednesday	<p><u>Mathematics</u> A range of mathematics work will be given to underpin your child's basic numeracy skills and/or to reinforce the day's lesson.</p>
Thursday	<p><u>Literacy</u> The nature of the activity will depend on the stage the class has reached in the current literacy unit. Activities will include comprehension/inference work; sentence and word-level worksheets; and preparing for a speaking and listening activity. However, there is a whole range of ways in which the children could be asked to demonstrate their understanding of a text or issue.</p>
Friday	<p><u>Mental arithmetic</u> In most cases, the children will work from their Schofield and Sims book. As the children are all at different stages in the series, this will be set on a time basis as opposed to asking them to complete a set number of sections. Research/extension work Children may be asked to complete a small research project relevant to one of our current foundation subject topics or an extended piece of work that will serve to consolidate skills and knowledge acquired in class.</p>
On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home-school reading books; - Learn weekly spellings; and - Learn weekly time tables (for Tuesday's test). <p><u>Extension:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Book reviews; and - Additional research relevant to current or future topics. - Mathletics (online maths activities)

Reporting

Every Monday, a short report on your child will be sent home. It will indicate your child's progress and achievement in relation to key learning objectives from the previous week. The head teacher will make comments about your child's behaviour and general demeanour.

After you have read the report, please write a comment at the bottom of the sheet and sign it.

In addition, an annual academic summative report, will be sent home at the end of June. This covers progress across the whole primary curriculum.

Each term, you will be given the opportunity to meet with the class teacher to discuss your child's progress and development.

Assessment

Children are continually assessed to enable teachers to respond to their individual curriculum needs. More formal testing takes place in the summer term; we use NFER tests for English, mathematics, N.V.R. and V.R. We also track reading and spelling ages.

At the end of the Summer term, the children undertake assessments in reading, writing and mathematics. These are not intended to cause your child any stress and we do not put the children under any pressure during assessments. You will be informed of any formal test scores at Parents' evenings, which always shortly follow our examination weeks.

Educational Visits

Years 3 and 4 are taken on at least one trip every term. They are usually related to one of current science or foundation subject topics. For example, we have visited Eureka! – a science museum; the World Museum and 'National Conservation Centre' in Liverpool; and the Walker Art Gallery.



This one-night trip to Castleton, Derbyshire, continues to be a great success. The children take part in a collection of activities including archery and a visit to a cavern. More information will be provided nearer to the time.



Timetable for Year 3

	Registration (8.45 – 9.15 a.m.)	Session 1 (9.15 – 10.20 a.m.)	Assembly and playtime		Session 2 (11.00 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.)		Lunch		Session 3 (1.30 – 2.30 p.m.)		Session 4 (2.30 – 3.45 p.m.)		Homework				
Monday	Literacy				Mathematics				Performing Arts	Humanities		RE		Mathematics Reading Spelling Sentences from word lists			
Tuesday	Swimming (Sale Leisure Centre)				Hand-writing				ICT ½ class	Maths ½ class		ICT ½ Class	Maths ½ class	PSHCE	French		Mathematics Reading Spelling Revise for test
Wednesday	Literacy				PE	Maths			House meetings	Science					Mathematics Reading Science Spelling Revise for test		
Thursday	Literacy				Mathematics				Art/Design				NVR Mr Marsden		Reading Comprehension Mathemat- Spelling Revise for test		
Friday	Literacy				Mathematics				Literacy	Games					Word Level Mathematics Reading Spelling Exercise for new list Or Research work.		

Long Term Plan for Year 3



Curriculum area	Autumn 1 8 weeks	Autumn 2 6 weeks	Spring 1 6 weeks	Spring 2 5 weeks	Summer 1 6 weeks	Summer 2 5 weeks
Literacy	Paragraphing; Writing Letters; Context Clues	Fairy Tales; Parts of Speech	Greek Myths; Pre-fabulous Animals	Instructional Texts; Recount of Play	Poetic Style Mystery Stories	Persuasive Writing; Classic Poems
Mathematics	4 Rules of Numbers; Place Value/Rounding Fractions	Measures: Length, Mass & Capacity; Analysing & Collecting data	4 Rules up to 1000; Direction and Co-ordinates	Angles; Symmetry; Classifying 2D & 3D shapes	Using Multiplication & Division to Solve Problems; Perimeter & Area	Decimals; Negative Numbers; Probability
Science	Healthy Eating	Rocks and Soils	Characteristics of Materials	Magnets and Springs	Light and Shadow	Helping Plants grow
I.C.T.	Combining and Graphics	Manipulating Sound	Introduction to Databases	Exploring Situations	E-mail	Controlling a Floor Turtle
History and geography	Evolution of Mammals; Early Man: Proconsul to Neanderthal	Celtic Technology; Living in a roundhouse; Roman Invasion of Britain	Roman Walls & Roads; Timeline of Occupation; Roman Inscriptions	The end of the Roman Occupation; Where the Anglo Saxons Came From	The Seasons. Extremes of Weather	Street Plans. Different Types of Buildings
Music	Animal Magic: Carnival of the Animals	Painting with Sound: Halloween, Christmas	Singing Games	Exploring Arrangements	Rhythmic Patterns	Pentatonic Scales
Art and design and D.T.	How to Draw Sea Creatures	Divali Candles; Advent Wreaths	Celtic Houses; How to draw Landscapes	Landscapes: In the Distance; Shade and Shadows	Portraits: Half and Half Caricatures	Moving Monster Project
R.E.	Signs and Symbols	Divali	Who is Jesus?	The Bible	What is Faith?	
P.S.H.C.E	New Beginnings and Choices	Getting On, Falling Out and Friends	Saying No to Bullies; Into My Body	Going for Goals; A Better Place	Good to be me; New Faces	Relationships; Special Rules