

# Year 3 Newsletter

## Autumn Term 1



### Welcome Back!

We are delighted to welcome your children back to school and into Year 3! This year promises to be full of exciting learning opportunities, with topics designed to spark curiosity, encourage creativity, and build independence as the children continue their learning journey into Key Stage 2. Our curriculum is carefully planned to nurture their enthusiasm while equipping them with the skills they need for an ever-changing world. In this newsletter, you'll find an overview of what your child will be learning this term, along with key information about our routines and expectations in Year 3.

### The Year 3 Team

**Year Group Leader:**

Mrs Mary Purchase

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**Class Teacher:**

Mrs Anna Ringrose

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**Class Teacher:**

Mrs Toni McMillan

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**Teaching Assistants:**

Mrs Jackie Gilbert

Mrs Emma Brummitt

**1:1 Teaching Assistants:**

Mrs Emma Ronie



### Lunch

There are no hot school meals provided in KS2 so all children will have to bring in a packed lunch. If they qualify for free school meals, then this will be provided in the form of a packed lunch.

### Break times

Lunch is now at a later time of 12:30. As the children can get hungry in the run-up to lunchtime, we recommend sending a snack for morning break to help keep their energy and focus levels up. Since there is no universal free fruit in KS2, your child will need to bring in their own healthy snack for morning break time, such as fruit, cheese, yogurt tubes etc. Please also ensure your child has appropriate named clothing for the weather, as we will aim to go outside for break whenever possible.

### Maths groups

Maths is taught in mixed-class groups, giving children the opportunity to learn alongside peers from different classes. While all groups work towards the same learning objectives, lessons may be adapted in their delivery to best support the needs of each group and ensure every child is able to make good progress. Alongside our maths lessons, we will also be spending time in our class groups developing fluency skills. This will help the children build confidence and improve the speed and accuracy of their number facts and mental maths strategies.

### Uniform

Please ensure that all items of your child's school uniform, especially jumpers and ties, are clearly named. Children are expected to wear full school uniform every day and to keep their PE kit in their locker throughout the week so they are always prepared for PE lessons. A reminder of our school uniform expectations can be found on the school website.

# Our Learning



## Talk 4 Reading

This term we will be using a picture book, 'Flotsam' by Jeannie Baker, to develop the children's ability to infer meaning from images and texts. Inference and deduction skills will be crucial to support the children's move from decoding words in daily reading with an adult towards a more independent reading of more complex texts. In Year 3, there are lots of different ways we share texts. Children will read silently to themselves every day and individually to an adult at least fortnightly (often much more). We also enjoy group reading and whole class comprehension work.

## Talk 4 Writing

In our writing lessons we will be focusing on a text called 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. We will be using this text to help us write our own conflict and resolution story with a focus on the characters within our story. Through our Talk for Writing lessons, we will also be teaching the children spelling and grammar. Our lessons will be filled with talking, actions and plenty of fun!

## Topic

In Art, the children will practice different collage techniques, arranging items to create a striking effect before making their own landscape scene using techniques of their choosing.

In Science, we will be learning about rocks and soils, exploring the different types of rocks, how they are formed, and investigating the properties of different soils.

In Geography, we will be studying mountains, earthquakes and volcanoes. The children will discover how these natural features are formed, where they are found around the world, and the impact they have on people and the environment.

In PE, we will be developing our understanding of the attacking and defending principles of invasion games as well as fair play and honesty while learning and abiding by key rules. Outdoor PE will be on a Friday.

In PSHE, we will be beginning our new curriculum with a unit called 'How can I take care of my mind and body?'. The children will learn about physical and mental wellbeing, healthy choices, and ways to look after themselves.

In Computing, we will be learning about computer systems and networks, exploring how computers work together and how they are connected to share information.

## Maths

We will continue with our mastery curriculum in Maths following the Singapore approach to teaching. We will start by recapping the key skills taught in Year 2 followed by looking at place value and simple addition and subtraction. We ask the children to use Times Table Rock Stars to practice the speedy and accurate recall of times table facts and welcome your support at home with this. Each week, we will complete at least 3 TTRS sheets within class.

## PPA

In RE, which will be taught by Mrs Cotton, the children will be learning about Sikh worldviews, exploring Sikh beliefs, values and traditions.

In French, taught by Mrs Fuller, the children will be learning to talk about their family, developing their vocabulary and confidence in speaking French.

In Music, taught by Mrs Heusken, the children will be developing their musical skills through singing and learning to play the keyboard.

## Homework

**Maths:** given Monday, due back Thursday.

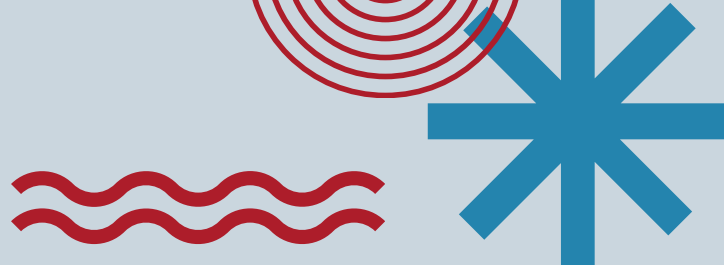
**Literacy:** given Thursday, due back Monday. The tasks for Literacy for each half term are stuck into the children's homework books in advance for you to refer to. If a child has a difficulty with a piece of homework, they should see their teacher before the hand in date! There is a Year 3 homework club each Thursday lunchtime which the children can attend if they would like some extra support.

## Dates for your diary

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October - Individual and sibling photos  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Trip to Magna  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Last Day of Term  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - Start of Term 2  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Online Safety Workshop



# Reading



At The William Alvey School, we believe that reading is at the heart of learning. We love reading and want every child to develop not only the skills they need to succeed, but also a lifelong enjoyment of books.

Now that your child has entered Year 3, we will use Renaissance Reader (RR) to track and support their reading progress. During the first week, the children will complete a Star Reader test, which is made up of multiple-choice reading questions that become gradually more challenging. Based on the results of this test, each child will be given appropriate reading levels to choose from. For some children, the Star Reader results may show that they are not yet ready to move onto Renaissance Reader. These children will continue with the Rising Stars reading scheme used in Year 2, building on the levels they were working at previously. This will ensure that every child is reading books that are appropriate for their current reading ability and that they can continue to develop their confidence and skills at the right pace.

Once they have finished a book, they can take a quiz on the computer. These quizzes consist of 5 or 10 multiple-choice questions that check their understanding of what they have read. To pass, they need to score 80% or above. At least once a term, the children will repeat the Star Reader test and their levels will be adjusted as needed. The children can use their quiz scores to help them decide which books to choose next. If they do not score as well as they would like, they might consider trying a different genre or choosing a book at a slightly lower level. Equally, if they are regularly achieving full marks and finding the quizzes very easy, they may be ready to challenge themselves with a more demanding book or explore a different genre. We will support the children with making these choices initially, helping them to understand what their quiz results are telling them, but our aim is for them to become increasingly confident and independent in selecting books that are both enjoyable and appropriately challenging as the year progresses.

You may notice that, to begin with, the books your child brings home seem easier than what they were reading in Year 2. This is intentional. In Year 3, the focus shifts from simply reading the words to developing comprehension and understanding. Starting at a level where they can succeed helps them build confidence with the new system. If they demonstrate strong understanding, they will quickly progress to longer, more challenging books.

Please also remember that your child is still encouraged to enjoy a wide variety of books at home for pleasure, alongside their school reading. Sharing stories, magazines, comics, or favourite books from home is just as valuable in helping them to develop a lifelong love of reading. It would also be really beneficial for parents/carers to hear their children read at home and to discuss what they are reading, as this helps check their understanding and deepens their enjoyment.

For their very first quiz, we ask that the children complete it with an adult in school, so they are clear on what to do. This can take us some time to work through with the whole class, which means your child may keep the same book for a few days at first. Thank you for your patience — once they are confident, they will quiz independently and change their books more regularly.

Although children cannot take quizzes at home, once they are settled into the system, we will send home login details so that you can track their progress online.

In order for children to make steady progress, it is important that they bring both their reading book and reading diary into school

every day. While reading diaries are no longer checked daily for messages, we still encourage you to note any comments and record daily reading as we will look at them regularly.

Thank you for your continued support as we get the children started on this new system.

