

Welcome to Year 3! We are pleased to provide you with this curriculum newsletter, which we hope you will find useful.

There will be two classes in Year 3 this year. The classes are:

Miss Coomber - Jet
Miss Hudson - Topaz

Communication with us

Please feel free to come and speak to either Miss Hudson or Miss Coomber should you have any concerns or comments to make. We are generally available at the end of the day, alternatively you can contact us by telephone or via a letter in your child's book bag. We shall endeavour to contact you as soon as possible.

We hope that you have found this information useful. We are all looking forward to what promises to be a busy, exciting and enjoyable first term!

We know that the transition to Key Stage 2 can be quite daunting for some children, particularly those who have joined us from our surrounding villages. If your child experiences any 'wobbles' during the first few weeks which they share with you at home, or if you would like to know how your child has settled, please do not hesitate to contact us, and we shall address any concerns as soon as possible.

In Key Stage 2 the children are encouraged to show a greater level of independence, and will be encouraged to manage more aspects of their learning for themselves. This includes: knowing how they work best; organising their own resources; considering for themselves where they can find the information or help etc.

A timetable is displayed in each classroom, which will be explained as necessary. In Key Stage 2, to minimise disruption to the children's learning,

we encourage the children to use the toilet during their breaks rather than in lesson time. However, we do realise that this is not always possible.

Jet and Topaz children will also be able to visit the school library and change their library books every Friday. There will also be access to library in the mornings between 8.30am - 8.40am before school if you would like to visit with your child.

There will be an assembly on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternate Fridays, which will regularly be PSHE or Citizenship related. The children will always sing in Wednesday's assembly.



Both Jet and Topaz PE lessons will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Occasionally we shall have PE at other times, so please ensure that your child **always** has the correct PE kit in school every day, including tracksuits and trainers, to enable full participation in these lessons.

Our learning

Our first topic in Year 3 is called **Stones and Bones**. In the first half term the children will explore the life of the people in this era. We will learn all about the Stone Age through drama, texts, artefacts and research. To enrich their learning we have organised an educational visit to Chiltern Open Air Museum where the children will be introduced to different aspects of Mesolithic life.

After half term, our second topic will be 'Mirror Mirror'. This topic links our Science learning (on light and shadows), our Numeracy learning (on symmetry and reflections) and Literacy (which will explore stories with familiar settings, with a twist).

Our Literacy lessons will include spelling, comprehension and grammar. Time will be given for individual reading, library visits, handwriting and listening to poems and short stories. We also expect the children to take their reading books home each day to read independently or with you as part of their homework.



The children will be grouped for Numeracy. This term the children will develop their understanding of all four operations (+, -, \times , \div) as well as money, shape, fractions and measure. Great emphasis will be placed on the development of mental strategies and informal paper and pencil methods for recording work. Lessons will enhance children's reasoning skills and nurture a curiosity in the subject. As part of their weekly homework, children will continue to be asked to practise their tables (as set by their maths teacher) and other mental strategies used during the numeracy lesson. The Times Table Rockstars computer programme will be a resource which will enable the children to develop these skills in a fun, engaging and interactive way both in class and at home. The children will be given a log in and password to enable them to access this.



In Science lessons our topic is: Food and our Bodies. The children will find out about healthy and balanced diets. They will also be able to describe the basic parts of the skeletal system, and will look at joints, and how bones and muscles help us move.

In the second half of Autumn term, our Science topic is: Mirror Mirror. The children will be able to describe the reflections when light is reflected from surfaces and describe how shadows are formed. They will develop their observational skills and learn how to carry out a fair test.

The children will celebrate similarities and differences, and learn to appreciate their own individual gifts and talents during PSHE. They will consider the idea of belonging to different groups and communities, and how a sense of community features in relation to our topic.



In computing we shall be using the internet as a research tool as part of our 'We are programmers'.



In this unit, the children create an animated cartoon using characters they design. They use a paint tool to create characters and backgrounds. They then create an animation of their choice.



Our PE lessons will cover Gymnastics, Badminton and Handyball. In gymnastics, the children will learn a variety of balances and rolls, beginning to link these together with control in a sequence. During Badminton and Handyball lessons, the children will learn the rules, play with a variety of opponents and develop their skills.



In French, children will continue to learn vocabulary by sight and listening. The children will learn how to read simple texts and start to write some French words and phrases. Children can earn 'Eiffel Tower' points in recognition of great effort in lessons. We shall be celebrating 'Day of Languages' on the 26th September.

We look forward to a very successful Autumn term.
We thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact us, for any reason.

Miss K Coomber and Miss T Hudson