

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:

Mr Smith - Jet
Miss Weatherley - Topaz

Communication with us

Please feel free to come and speak to either Miss Weatherley or Mr Smith 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 children'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 should 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.

Routine of the day

The children will line up on the playground at 8.40 when the bell rings, where they will be collected by their class teacher.

A visual timetable is displayed in each classroom, which will be explained as necessary. The first lesson of each day will be Literacy, and Numeracy will always follow our mid morning break, which is 10.30 until 10.45 am.

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!

There will be an assembly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, which is usually PSHE or Citizenship related, or an opportunity for different year groups to share their learning with the rest of their Key Stage. The children will also sing as part of each assembly. There will be class/year group Assemblies on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Jet PE lessons will be on Monday and Thursday and Topaz on Monday and Tuesday. 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.

Children will also be able to visit the school library and change their library books. Library day will be Tuesday for Jet and Topaz. There will also be an additional lunchtime session for children to access the library to return and select books. There will be access to library in the mornings between 8.30am - 8.40am before school, then up to 9am to change reading books.

Our first topic in Year 3 is called volcanoes and earthquakes. In the first half term the children will explore the structure of volcanoes and why they erupt.

Geography will be the leading subject and the children will investigate and research volcanoes from around the world. They will learn how to locate countries where volcanoes exist using maps and find out why volcanoes exist there.

We shall also make links with history to find out what happened in Pompeii in 79AD.

During the second half of the term, the children will explore earthquakes. As part of this topic, the children will be asked to think about the economic impact earthquakes have on those countries they affect as well as the world.

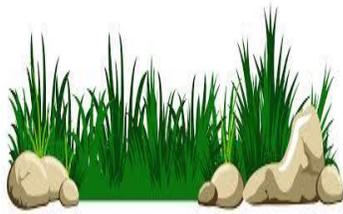
In cross curricular Literacy this term, we shall be looking at information texts linked to our geography unit of volcanoes and earthquakes. The children will use a range of devices to research facts, and learn note taking skills. They will use their notes to write non-chronological reports, and will write a range of texts in role, including letters, newspaper reports and diaries. We shall also be writing recounts about our recent holiday experiences and visits throughout the term.

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 explore a range of media and techniques in art, doing pastel drawings of volcanoes that the children have studied.

They will also think about what relationships may exist between different people in photographs and paintings, commenting on composition and arrangement, and shall discuss this within the context of our topic.



In Science lessons we shall learn about rocks in the first half term. The children will work scientifically on a variety of quick challenges and longer tasks to learn about rocks. In this topic, we learn about the properties and uses of rocks, the rock family, soils and finally fossils.



Our Science topic in the second half of the term is called "Opposites Attract". In this topic, the children will find out about magnets and their uses, and what makes magnetic poles special.

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 featured in relation to our topic.



The children will be ability grouped for Numeracy. This term the children will develop their understanding of all four rules of number (+, -, \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. As part of their homework project the 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.



In DT children will make 3D models of volcanoes, evaluating what worked well, and how our designs could be improved. Donations of newspapers for this project would be appreciated.

Music lessons will be delivered in conjunction with the Milton Keynes Music Service this term. The children will learn how to keep rhythm and beat using a range of untuned and tuned percussion instruments, and will continue to develop their singing skills by thinking about the importance of phrasing, articulation and breathing.



In computing we shall be using the internet as a research tool as part of our 'We are Researchers' unit. We shall find out facts to support our geography learning.



We shall then use our 'We are Communicators' unit to present information using different media, such as PowerPoint, e-mail, interviews etc.



Our PE focus for the first half term is Invasion Games, during which the children will develop hockey skills, and learn some related tactical strategies. The second half term will focus on dance, and will continue to develop and build upon those skills taught during Year 2.

In our RE topic 'How do people's beliefs about God, the world and others impact on their lives?' the children will be considering what faith is and how faith helps people to live their lives.



L Weatherley (Miss)

A Smith (Mr)