

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer after the trials of 'Lockdown Life'! We are excited to be starting a new year back in school and are hopeful that with the systems we have in place, life can return to a greater degree of normality. We have made many adaptations, as you will appreciate, within the wider school and in class to enable us to operate safely within the guidance set out by Central Government. This means that the learning environment and learning itself will look different to normal. We have made slight changes to our curriculum so that should we have to operate virtually, learning is not interrupted, can be easily accessed by children and overseen remotely by staff. This includes times where children may need to self-isolate due to individual family circumstances. There will undoubtedly be teething problems but we anticipate that changes to routines will quickly be established and that life in school will return to a 'new normal'.

As we are unable to hold a transition meeting this year, we have put together the following information below related to Year 3 which you may find useful.

### **Staffing**

Mrs Stoker will be teaching in Purple Class while Mrs Hunter will be teaching in Orange Class. Both classes will be supported by Mrs Knox and Mrs Gibson. On a Friday, Orange Class will be taught by Mrs Holman.

### **Communication**

We will do our best to keep you informed of any changes and with that in mind are going to retain the Dojo messaging system so that you have a means of direct communication with staff. This year we will be conducting our Parents' Evening via a 10-minute telephone call early in November (Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>) to discuss how your child has settled in and update you about their learning.

### **Dates**

October Half term: Friday 23rd October – Monday 2nd November

Parents' Evening telephone conferences: Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th November

Christmas Holidays: Friday 18th December - Tuesday 5th January

### **Timetable**

Please find attached a copy of our timetable. This is to give you an idea about what your child will be learning each day but is subject to change (other than PE).

Our PE day is a Monday so please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit every Monday.

### **English**

This term we will be starting with the story 'The Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura. We will explore the characters and settings, make inferences and predictions about the story and complete several writing tasks inspired by the book. In terms of grammar and punctuation, we will focus on use of conjunctions, accurate punctuation and varied sentence openers.

### **Spelling**

This year, we are going to be moving to SpellZone - an education spelling program which tailors an individualised spelling scheme for your child. Your child will then complete weekly activities based on their identified spelling need and will move to new spellings as they demonstrate a secure memory of the given word lists. The children will no longer be given a formal spelling test as this will be an ongoing part of the program. We will continue to have a spelling lesson each week but this will explore Year 3 spelling rules and will form the basis of our daily handwriting and sentence writing practise. Handwriting continues to be an important focus this year and a joined, fluent, consistent style is encouraged.

A copy of the Year 3 spellings is attached to the bottom of this letter.

### **Reading**

Your child will bring a reading book home soon which should be read regularly and recorded in their reading diary. **Please date and sign this reading record each week.** Some children may now be reading more complex books and may wish to read in their heads. We do request that all children continue to read some pages aloud as this helps to build fluency and expression. **Please help your child to ensure they bring their reading book and record into school each day,** so we can read with them and keep ongoing notes on their progress.

Children will hand in their reading book on a Monday and bring a new book home on Wednesday. This is because the books need to be 'quarantined' for a few days before another child can bring it home. We are hoping to get the library up and running soon and will follow the same process for library books too.

A reading list compiled by our Literacy Lead has also been attached to the newsletter. The list is intended to provide guidance about age appropriate books. It is also intended to help encourage your child to read a wider variety of genres and authors. We encourage the children to try reading some of the books from this list or to read them with someone at home. These books are available to borrow from the school library.

### **Maths**

In Maths this term, we will be using short pre-assessments and our own teacher observations to help us identify any objectives from the previous year which may require further consolidation before moving on to more advanced content. Alongside this, we will be covering the following objectives from the Year 3 curriculum:

- Place Value, ordering and rounding of digits up to 1000.
- Counting in multiples of 50.
- Adding and subtracting numbers up to 3 digits using formal written methods.
- Recalling multiplication and division facts using the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

In order to help all children acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need, a longer amount of time will be spent upon building key concepts and securing fluency with number facts.

**History** – Our topic this term is Stone Age to Iron Age in which we will be looking at 'Britain's first builders'.

**Geography** – Is the UK the same everywhere? In this unit we will be comparing and contrasting coastlines, counties and towns and looking at the general climate of the UK.

**Science** – Linked to our Stone Age topic, we will be looking at the lifecycle of a rock and different types of rocks and soils. We will also be looking at raw and synthetic materials.

**Computing** – We will be learning all about digital devices and computer networks this half term and will then move on to a desktop publishing unit.

**Art** – Also keeping in step with our history topic, we will look at Ancient Egyptian art and the architecture of the Great Pyramids and comparing this with modern day buildings designed by Norman Foster.

**D&T** – Towards the end of the term we will be working on making moving pictures using levers and linkages.

**Music** – This term the children will have weekly ukulele lessons in class. Ukuleles will be provided by school.

**PSHE** - This term in PSHE our topic is Health and Wellbeing. We will focus on staying safe in school, our mental health, self-esteem and our strengths. We will also look at how to make a call to the emergency services towards the end of term. **It would be really useful if you could support us with this by showing your child how to make an emergency call from your phones and mobiles at home** – this task isn't as simple as it once was now that we have mainly handheld phones and passcodes. If you have any questions or concerns about any of these topics, please don't hesitate to contact us.

### **Homework**

In the lower juniors, 2 pieces of homework are set each week; 1 Maths and 1 English. These will be related to the work your child has done in school and each piece should take just 20 minutes to complete. Should your child want to take this further, there will often be extension elements, but if your child has not finished within 20 minutes then they may stop. Should you wish to communicate with us about a particular piece of homework, you are welcome to make a note in their homework book or get in touch with school directly. Homework will be given out on a Wednesday and needs to be handed in on a Monday.

### **Swimming**

Normally, Year 3 children would take part in weekly swimming lessons at Durham School. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, these will not be happening. We will provide further information about school swimming lessons if and when this changes.

### **Snacks and Water**

In the juniors, free fruit is not available as it was in the infants. If you wish, you can send your child in to school with a small snack to eat at breaktime. Please bear in mind that this must be a 'healthy' snack, such as fresh or dried fruit, vegetables or breadsticks. It must not contain nuts. Cereal bars are not allowed as they often contain traces of nuts.

Milk is still available to order for your child if you wish.

### **Lunchtime**

School dinners are no longer free and will need to be paid for using the ParentPay system. Children are able to mix days regarding school lunches and packed lunches, so for example if they wish to have a packed lunch 3 days a week and school dinners the other 2 days, this is possible.

### **Drop off and Pick up**

Due to the staggered start and finish times, Year 3 will start school at 8:55am and finish at 3:15. Children need to enter through the main gate at their given time and at home time, Orange Class will leave through the large gate in alphabetical order and Purple Class through the smaller, pedestrian access gate, also in alphabetical order.

### **What to Bring to School**

Please ensure your child comes to school with a clearly named water bottle. It is really important that they have their water bottle in school every day as the water fountains will not be in use in order to keep all the children safe.

Children are able to bring in a small bag that will be kept under their chairs. In their bags they can bring in their own stationary, dictionary, snack, water and packed lunch. Reading and library books will also be kept in their school bag. Bags will be kept in the classroom for the foreseeable future so the children do not mix with other bubbles in the cloakroom.

Please ensure that everything your child brings to school is clearly named.

Thank you in advance for all your help and co-operation. Please get in touch if you have any queries or problems, now or in the future. We look forward to an enjoyable and successful year.

*Mrs Stoker and Mrs Hunter*

Year 3 Reading List

Cool	Michael Morpurgo
The Butterfly Lion	Michael Morpurgo
Billy the Kid	Michael Morpurgo
The Twits	Roald Dahl
Charlie and Chocolate Factory	Roald Dahl
James and the Giant Peach	Roald Dahl
George's Marvellous Medicine	Roald Dahl
The Sheep Pig	Dick King-Smith
Pippi Longstocking	Astrid Lindgren
The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog	Jeremy Strong
A Bear Called Paddington	Michael Bond
Mister Magnolia	Quentin Blake
The Magic Faraway Tree/ Secret Seven Series	Enid Blyton
The Dragonsitter Series	Josh Lacey
Animal Ark series	Lucy Daniels
Horrid Henry series	Francesca Henry's
Charlotte's Web	E B White
Flat Stanley	Jeff Brown
Fungus the Bogeyman	Raymond Briggs
One Dog and His Boy	Eva Ibbotson
Harry the Poisonous Centipede	Lynne Reid Banks
Mr Majeika	Humphrey Carpenter
Please Mrs Butler	Allan Ahlberg
Dog Man	David Pilker
Bear Grylls Adventures	Bear Grylls
Dotty Detective	Claire Vulliamy
Magic Animal Friends	Daisy Meadows
The Pongwiffy Stories	Kaye Umansky
Beast Quest	Adam Blade
Tom Gates Series	Liz Pichon
Charlie Changes into a Chicken	Sam Copeland
Charlie Turns into a T-Rex	Sam Copeland
Tin	Padraig Kenny
Beetle Boy	M. G.Leonard
Who let the Gods Out?	Maz Evans
Dave Pigeon	Swapna Haddow
The Boy Who Grew Dragons	Andy Shepherd
Ellie and The Cat	Malorie Blackman
Sam Wu is Not Afraid of Ghosts	Katie & Kevin Tsang
The Nothing to See Here Hotel	Steven Butler
Stitch Head	Guy Bass
The Truth Pixie	Matt Haig
Boot	Shane Hegarty
Ottoline and the Yellow Cat	Chris Riddell
The Unbelievable Top Secret Diary of Pig	Emer Stamp
Planet Omar	Zanib Mian
Fizzlebert Stump & the Boy who Ran Away from the Circus	A.F.Harrold

## Year 3 Timetable 2020-21

	9:00 – 10:15	10:15-10:30	10:30-11:30	11:30-12:30	12:30 – 1:00	1.00-1.45	1.45-2.00	2.00-3.15
<b>Monday</b>	Maths	K	English	H	P.E./R.E.			
<b>Tuesday</b>	Maths	A	English	C	Guided Reading	History/Geography	Break	PSHCE
<b>Wednesday</b>	Maths	E	English	N	Guided Reading	Ukulele	Break	Science
<b>Thursday</b>	Maths	R	English	U	Guided Reading	Art/DT	Break	Art/DT
<b>Friday</b>	Maths (Shape, Space and Measure)	B	English (spelling)	L	Guided Reading	Computing	Break	French

## Year 3 Word List

actual(ly)

address

answer

appear

arrive

believe

bicycle

build

caught

centre

century

certain

circle

decide

describe

different

difficult

disappear

early

earth

eight/eighth

extreme

favourite

February

guide

heard

heart

history

important

interest

length

medicine

minute

notice

often

possible

probably

promise

purpose

quarter

question

recent

remember

special

straight

strange

strength

surprise

thought

through