

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer. We are excited to be starting a new year back in school and the children in Orange and Purple classes have settled in quickly thus making it a smooth start to the school year.

Staffing

Mrs Frew will be teaching in Purple Class, supported by Mrs Moody and Mrs Hunter will be teaching in Orange Class supported by Mrs Varley. On a Thursday and Friday afternoons, Orange class will be taught by Mrs Holman.

Communication

We are no longer using Class Dojo as a line of communication between parents and staff. We are investing in a new system that should be put in place after this half term. More information will be given nearer the time from the office. In the meantime, if you need to contact one of us then please catch us at the end of the day or alternatively, please send an email to the school office who will then forward the email to us. We will aim to get back to you as soon as possible.

Timetable

Please find attached our timetable for the Autumn Term but be mindful that it is subject to change to allow for flexibility (other than swimming and PE which will remain the same).

Our PE day is a Friday so please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit every Friday. As the weather gets colder your child will need plain black or navy blue leggings/jogging bottoms as PE may be outside.

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. We will also be reading Charlie Changes into a Chicken as a class text. Handwriting continues to be an important focus this year and a joined, fluent, consistent style is encouraged.

Spelling

This year, we will be using SpellZone for our spellings. Your child will be expected to 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 also be given a formal spelling test linked to the spellings on the Spellzone programme. 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 practice. There will be a guide to follow which provides more information about how to use Spellzone.

We are currently revising the Year 2 common exception words which we have attached for your child to learn. If your child is already confident with these, they may start learning the words on the Year 3/4 spelling list. Your child will be provided with this list if we feel it is appropriate.

Reading

Your child should have already brought a reading book home 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. Once they have read their book at home and an adult has commented and signed the reading record your child can choose a new book. In Year 3 we expect the children to change their own reading books.

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 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 the first recorded art found in ancient caves and be doing some sketching and printing.

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 however if your child already has their own ukulele then they can bring this into school on a Thursday.

PSHE/RSE - 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, we set homework each week and alternate between Topic, Maths and English. The homework 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.

Learning their spellings and times tables and reading is also a very important part of their homework in Year 3.

Swimming

Year 3 children will take part in weekly swimming lessons at Durham School this term. Orange Class will swim on a Tuesday and Purple Class on a Wednesday. All children need to take part in the swimming lessons unless they have a medical exemption. Children will need to bring the following in their swimming kit:

Swimming costume for girls (not bikini)/trunks for boys (not shorts)

Goggles and hat (all children need to wear a hat regardless of hair length)

Towel

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

At the end of the day Year 3 will be able to come into school from 8:45am. At 3:30pm they will be taken to the infant yard for collection.

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.

Children are able to bring in a small bag that will be kept in the cloakroom. In their bags they can bring in their own stationery, dictionary, snack, water and packed lunch. Reading and library books will also be kept in their school bag. It would be beneficial if your child could keep their reading book and reading record in a separate plastic file/folder so they can store their books in their tray during the day.

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 Hunter and Mrs Frew

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 2021-22

	8:55 - 9:10	9:10 - 10:35	Break 10.35 - 10:50	10:50- 11:05	11:05 - 12:30	Lunch 12:30 - 1:30	1:30 - 2:25	2:30 - 3:30
Monday	Reg Maths revision	Worship Maths lesson		ERIC	Handwriting SPaG Starter Guided Reading		Literacy Comprehension	Art/DT
Tuesday	Reg Maths revision	Maths lesson		ERIC	Spelling Starter SPaG		PSHCE ISingPop	History/Geography
Wednesday	Reg Maths revision	Worship Maths lesson		ERIC	Handwriting Spag Starter Literacy		PE	RE Library / Change reading books
Thursday	Reg Maths revision	Maths lesson		ERIC	Spelling Starter Literacy		Science	Music
Friday	Reg Maths revision	Maths lesson Awards Worship		ERIC	Handwriting SPaG Starter Literacy		French	ICT

ERIC- Everyone reading in class.

Please ensure the children bring in their diary and reading book each day.

Library books will be changed on a Wednesday but can be kept until the children are finished reading.

Year 3 Word List

actual(ly)

address

answer

appear

arrive

believe

bicycle

build

caught

centre

century

certain

circle	guide	probably
decide	heard	promise
describe	heart	purpose
different	history	quarter
difficult	important	question
	interest	recent
	length	remember
disappear	medicine	special
early	minute	straight
earth	notice	strange
eight/eighth		strength
extreme		surprise
favourite	often	thought
February	possible	through