



Year 3 Autumn

Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Bushfield and to a brand new school year. We have an exciting Autumn Term planned for Year 3. We have already started to get to know your children and they are settling into Bushfield life well. You will have an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher in October's consultation meetings, but if any issues arise in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact school and arrange an appointment. Our themes this term will be Ancient Britain and Rainforests.

English

As part of our transition work, we will be using the book 'The Smartest Giant in Town' by Julia Donaldson to stretch our imaginations and write creatively. We will explore how writers use description to 'paint' pictures in the head of the reader. Later in the term we will be using the book, 'Stone Age Boy' by Satoshi Kitamura, taking part in drama activities and debates before writing our own narrative about the Stone Age which links to our topic. In this term we will also work on grammar, reading skills, spelling and handwriting which includes getting used to writing in pen. After half term we will be writing poems and non-chronological reports about the rainforest.

Maths

In maths we will begin by looking at place value of numbers. This will then lead on to developing written methods starting with addition and subtraction. We will also be helping the children to develop their problem solving skills and their ability to link mathematical learning. During this term, the children will also look at 2D shape and the properties associated with them including right angles. In mental maths we will be concentrating on our times tables. Initially, our target tables will be 2x, 5x, and 10x, moving onto 3x and 4x later in the term.

Science

We will begin our science by learning about animals and humans. We will be comparing human and animal skeletons and learning about how the muscles work. We will also discuss healthy eating and balanced diets. After half-term, we will have the chance to learn about magnets and forces where we will investigate how strong different magnets are and classify materials based on their levels of magnetism.

Computing

In computing we will begin with how to use the internet safely and learn how to compose emails. We will then link with our English topic to create a fact file on animals of the rainforest. We will learn how to copy and paste images and use them to best effect with text.

Topic (History and Geography)

In history we will be learning about Ancient Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. We will look at how their communities worked, what they ate and wore and how they began to use tools and different materials. In geography we will be developing our map and atlas skills in order to locate rainforests around the world. We will investigate which rainforest products we use in everyday life and compare the lives of those who live in rainforests to our own lives.

Art

In art we will begin with observational work and the children will be using their sketching skills to create their own version of a cave painting.

PSHE

We start the year linking PSHE with computing where we learn about how and why to keep safe online. We will also learn about who we are as individuals exploring the relationship and balance between physical activity and nutrition in achieving a physically and mentally healthy lifestyle.

Design Technology (DT)

In DT we will be using the inspiration of the rainforest people to develop our planning, cutting, joining and evaluating skills when we make a boat for Eddie the Explorer.

RE

This year all of our RE will be centred around Christianity under the themes of Believing, Belonging and Behaving.

PE & Games

On Tuesday morning the children will have a 45 minute indoor PE lesson and a 45 minute outdoor PE lesson. Indoor PE this term will focus on badminton and gym. The outdoor session will be health related fitness and multi-skills. In games, on Thursday afternoon, the children will be focusing on football and hockey. In games the children will be taught in ability groups to allow everyone to learn appropriate skills and to be challenged effectively. This will take us through until Christmas.

PE Kit Reminder: We strongly recommend that your child bring in their full PE kit on a Monday morning and leave it in school until Friday afternoon. This will reduce the number of occasions where children forget their PE kit for lessons.

Music

In Year 3 we have a specialist music teacher, Mrs Yeo. First the children will learn how to sing and what makes an effective performance. Pitch, tone, harmony and dimensions of music will be explored. Then they will link their rainforest learning to music by composing soundscapes using body percussion. They will also start looking at using the djembe drums.

French

French will be taught throughout the year by Mrs Coffey who uses a range of games, rhymes, songs and role-play to immerse the children in the language. The children will begin by learning simple greetings and introductions. Then they will be exploring the language and developing their confidence through an interactive story called 'Milo's adventures in the rainforest' which links to our topic.

Assessment

As part of transition, and to help us best support your child, we will be asking your child to carry out some assessments. These will include various maths, reading, grammar, spelling and writing assessments.

Homework

Reading

We ask that children read each day for 10 minutes. Each child in Year 3 will be issued with a level appropriate reading book provided by school. It really helps their progress if they are heard regularly at home and we would be grateful if you could initial their Personal Log each time you hear them.

Maths

To support the new times tables tests which will happen nationally in Year 4, the children will be given time in school to practise their times tables and will be tested regularly. They will be given a login for programme called Times Tables Rock Stars which they can use to practise at home. The teachers will set the homework through this programme.

Spellings

Spellings will be taught in English sets. The children will be set a new spelling list once a week. Their new lists are glued into their personal logs. The children will be tested on their spellings in their sets. We find that practising for a few minutes everyday really helps the children to learn and remember their spelling patterns and rules.

Topic

We also set a homework project per topic which enables the children to further explore their learning. The children are encouraged to complete this homework and we share all of the projects with the whole year group.

Children are encouraged to complete their homework because it reinforces the learning which takes place in school and is another opportunity to practise the skills they have learned. Those who complete their homework regularly and to a good standard will earn rewards.

Snack

Please remember to pack a healthy snack for your child to eat at playtime.

Upcoming Events in Autumn

- Residential Information Evening: 11/09/19 - 16:00
- Parents' Evening: 30/09/19 & 01/10/19
- Maths and Reading Information Evening: 06/11/19
- Year 3 Living Rainforest Trip: 08/11/19