



ST. MICHAEL'S CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 3 2020-21

Welcome to Year 3. Whether you are returning to school after the summer holidays or are new to our school, I want to make sure that you have all of the relevant information that you need to know, so that your child can have a smooth start to the academic year. This is an important year for the children as it is their first year in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6) and they will begin learning the content of the KS2 curriculum.

Teaching Team

We have 1 class in Year 3 this year

- 3F – Mr Farrell (KS2 Leader)

Mrs Cunningham will be the teaching assistant supporting Year 3. Mrs Cann and Mrs Fritz will also be working with groups in Key Stage 2.

What to Bring to School Each Day

All children should come to school in school uniform and with a school bag. Pupils should pack a drink bottle (containing water only) and their home-school folder, containing their reading book. Please make sure all personal items are labelled with your child's name.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the pupils should be wearing proper school shoes, not trainers during the school day. As a school we do encourage the children to wear a wrist watch, as this helps with the teaching of time (although smart watches are not allowed). Any hair accessories must be school colours (blue/white).

Arriving/Leaving School

As you will be aware we have had to adjust our drop-off and collection procedures. The Year 3 drop-off time is 9.00am-9:10am, with pupils entering the site via the nursery gate. If you have a child in EYFS you can drop your Year 3 child off at the same time (8:50am onwards). The children will be completing Start of Day Activities (SODA) during the registration period. Children must be in the classroom by 9:10am when registers are taken.

At the end of the school day children will be dismissed from the playground.



Healthy Schools



Helping Our PUPILS Emotions



Topics

We have a number of topics planned for this academic year, beginning with our first topic that focuses upon the prehistoric Britain. An in-school workshop is planned to enrich the learning in this topic and a separate letter detailing information about this has recently been emailed to you. I would be grateful if you could support your child's learning by discussing with them what they have learnt in school.

Physical Education

PE is an important compulsory part of the school curriculum and it is important that your child comes to school with the right kit so that they can participate. PE kit for all children is as follows:

- Plain white t-shirt (**not a polo shirt**)
- Trainers
- **Tracksuit for outdoor games**

At the current time, children should come to school dressed in their PE kit on our PE day, which is Wednesday. Due to coronavirus restrictions, all PE will take place outdoors at present, and therefore it is important that your child wears a tracksuit.

Earrings cannot be worn during PE and must be removed by the child. If your child cannot remove their earrings, then they should not be worn on PE days. Hair that is longer than shoulder length must also be tied back for PE lessons.

Music

In music this year your child will be participating in a project called 'Key 2 Music', which is provided by entrust. During the first lesson your child will be provided with a violin. **This instrument must be in school every Tuesday** so that your child can take part in their music lesson with Mrs Frost. Instruments will then be at home for the rest of the week in order for your child to practice what they have been taught.

Home Learning and Seesaw

As a school we believe that family time is extremely important and that onerous amounts of homework impact negatively upon this time. We do however recognise that there are certain things that you can do at home to support and extend your child's learning.

We will be continuing to use the Seesaw learning platform this year and this will replace paper reading diaries, as well as being the place to find home learning tasks and information about the learning that your child has completed in school.

Reading – Daily reading with your child is vital for them to make the expected level of progress, both with their reading fluency and comprehension skills. Please respond to the reading activity on your child's seesaw account when they have read. You can post information about the book they have read and a comment detailing how they have done. You can even add a video or audio recording of the reading to share your child's achievement and progress.

Due to the current pandemic, **reading books will be changed once a week on a Thursday** and details about the school reading books has been sent home on a separate letter.

Multiplication Tables – The government expect all children to be able to recall their multiplication tables up to 12x12 by the end of their time in Year 4. As well as being critical for everyday life, knowledge of multiplication tables helps children to solve problems quickly



and flexibly, and allows them to tackle more complex mathematics later on in school. These will be tested through the Year 4 National Multiplication check when your child reaches the end of Year 4.

By leaning some of the tables in Year 3 it reduces the amount of new learning for Year 4. To help your child learn their tables at home we are providing the following resources:

- Seesaw activities/games to help with times table learning.
- TT Rockstars website – online platform where children complete multiplication challenges to earn digital rewards. This site has proven to be particularly popular with pupils and has been very effective at helping them to improve their multiplication tables recall. The site provides an excellent platform to prepare for the multiplication check.

There will be a weekly times tables test on a Friday. A letter detailing information about these tests will be sent to you in due course. Please log in to TT Rockstars and familiarise yourself with how the site works, as we will be using it extensively this year to develop multiplication fact recall. The 'garage' area is the main game zone that your child should be using at first.

Spelling - The spelling patterns information sheet detailing the patterns that we will be working on will be sent home each term and will also be available on seesaw, so that you can practice using the rules with your child. The spelling sheet also contains a selection of that statutory KS2 words that your child is expected to know by the end of Year 4. Your child will need to learn these at home and will be tested on them in school. You can send in photos of the spelling work that your child has completed at home via seesaw so that we can share their successes.

Online Activities – There will be optional online games on the EducationCity Site that you can complete with your child to support learning that has taken place in class.

Project Work – From time to time we will set longer project-based tasks that will involve the children producing a piece of work linked to what we have been learning about in class. Letters detailing key information will be sent out when appropriate and details will also be available on seesaw.

Communication

If you have any queries or concerns about your child then please speak to me in the first instance.

If you need to get a message to me then you can do this in the following ways:

- Via the office, either to leave a message or make an appointment
- email the school office (due to current coronavirus restrictions we are trying to limit the use of hand-written notes from home)

Please do not send messages in via seesaw unless it is to do with the piece of work that you are submitting.

Unfortunately, I cannot hold discussions with parents at the start of the school day as I will be supervising the class. If you need to speak to me then please arrange a time after school.

I am looking forward to a very busy year ahead with lots of exciting topics to learn about. Please do contact me if you have any further questions regarding your child's time in Year 3.

Mr J Farrell
Year 3 Class Teacher
Key Stage 2 Leader

