



Class 3 Newsletter Spring 2024

Friday 12th January 2024

Dear children, parents and families of Class 3,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back. This term will be full of interesting learning adventures and I'm looking forward to sharing them with the children. Here is an overview of what we will be covering:

LITERACY

Poetry (Personification Poems): In this unit, we will look at how literary devices are used in a number of poems, with a particular focus on personification. We will explore themes, discussing how the imagery and clever literary devices bring the poet's ideas to life before using some of these strategies in our own poetry.

Narratives (Magical Realism): Our class novel this Spring term is the modern classic, 'Skellig', by David Almond. This story has strong themes which we will explore in depth whilst learning to read the novel with a deeper understanding. As we discover how the setting, characters and plot are developed, we will respond to the novel in various ways, also writing our own stories inspired by the themes of Skellig.

Description: There will be much to learn from our class novel, Skellig, about great character and setting description. Using ideas drawn from the novel, we will write imaginative descriptions of places and creatures from our own imaginations.

Advertisements: Our science topic and PSHE topics will provide great opportunities to explore healthy and unhealthy diets and ways of living. In this literacy unit we will study the way advertisers and campaigners try to persuade us to buy or avoid unhealthy foods and learn techniques to design our own effective advertisements.

Reading, Spelling, Handwriting and Grammar: Guided reading, spelling, grammar and handwriting activities will continue throughout the week.

MATHS

Multiplication & Division (Y5): Written methods for multiplication and division; recognising and using square numbers and cube numbers; using the vocabulary of prime numbers, prime factors and composite (nonprime) numbers; solving problems involving multiplication and division.

Algebra and Ratio (Y6): Finding one-step and two-step rules and representing them algebraically; substituting numbers with symbols and letters; reading formulae; forming equations; solving one-step and two-step equations; finding pairs of values.

Fractions (Y5): Multiplying fractions and mixed numbers; finding fractions of quantities; using fractions as operators.

Decimals (Y5 and 6): Understanding decimal place values (10ths, 100ths and 1000ths) and relating them to fractions; multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000; rounding, ordering and comparing decimals; adding and subtracting decimals; multiplying and dividing decimals by integers; converting fractions to decimals and decimals to fractions.

Percentages (Y5 and 6): The relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages and converting one to the other; ordering and comparing fractions, decimals and percentages; finding percentages of amounts.

MATHS

Measurement - Perimeter, Area & Volume (Y5 and 6): Perimeter of a range of shapes; area of rectangles, triangles and parallelograms; perimeter and area of compound and irregular shapes and finding missing values; volume of cubes and cuboids.

Statistics (Y5 and 6): reading, interpreting and drawing bar charts, line graphs and pie charts; reading, interpreting and drawing bar tables and timetables; finding the mean.

SCIENCE

Exercise, health and the Circulatory System: In this unit, the children will learn about the function of blood, the heart and other vital organs of the circulatory system. They will measure the impact of exercise on the heart and breathing and learn about the positive effects of regular exercise and a healthy diet on our bodies. Throughout the unit, we will learn about the discoveries of famous scientists and develop skills in measuring, testing and recording scientifically.

Properties of Materials: This unit will provide many opportunities for exciting experiments. We will develop our understanding of the three states of matter and investigate material properties such as transparency, hardness, response to magnets, thermal and electrical conductivity, and solubility.

GEOGRAPHY (South America): In geography, we will learn about the South American continent, exploring its physical characteristics, natural resources and human-made features. Brazil and the city of Rio de Janeiro will provide a case study to find out about similarities, differences and links between Brazil and the United Kingdom.

HISTORY (The Mayan Civilization): This unit looks at the Mayan Civilization. We will learn about the unique and sophisticated culture of the Mayans, how they lived, what they believed and what caused their civilization to collapse.

ART (Exploring Identity; Maya-inspired Art): Our main unit looks at how a range of artists explore the notion of 'identity', using our sketchbooks to record our ideas through visual notetaking. At various stages in the unit we will use a range of drawing materials and other media to create our own artworks, capturing aspects of our personalities and identities.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY (Frame Structures and Pneumatics): Linked with our science topic, forces, in this unit we will learn how lightweight materials can be arranged to make very strong structures. Later we will explore how pneumatics work, using compressed air in some of our own models.

MUSIC (Rhythm & Melody): In Class 3 we will be learning to keep the beat in music and how to layer rhythms on top, writing our own percussion scores to play together. Later in the term, we will learn to follow, read, improvise and compose our own melodies on iPads and instruments.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Expressing): This unit explores how people of different faiths, including Christianity, Judaism and Islam, express their beliefs through art and the way they live their lives.

PSHE (Keeping Myself Safe; Rights & Responsibilities): In the first unit this term, we will learn about drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, and how they impact on our bodies and our lives. In the second unit, we will discuss our rights, how democracy works and our responsibilities as citizens in a democracy.

READING - Thank you, parents, for encouraging your children to read regularly so far this year and for helping to keep their reading records up to date. Let's keep it up. There are plenty of good books in our class libraries and children know that as soon as they finish a book or if they lose interest in what they are reading, they should find a new one straight away.

HOMEWORK - Homework will continue to go out on Tuesdays and should be returned the following Monday with the children's reading records. This term, there will be a short writing task associated with the spellings which is explained in the new 'Homework Books'. The spelling and maths tasks will continue as usual.

SWIMMING - Swimming will continue on Monday afternoons in the first half of this term for all of the children in Class 3. Later, only Year 5 will attend swimming whilst the Year 6 children stay at school to focus on

SATS targets. More information about SATS (Standard Assessment Tests), which take place from 13th - 16th May, will be given out later in the term.

AFTER SCHOOL - If your child is to be picked up by anyone other than the usual person, please let Admin or Mrs Allen know.

NOTE - we remain a nut aware school so only fruit or vegetable snacks are to be brought into school.

If there is anything you would like to discuss with me about this newsletter or anything else, please email me at jbelle@kim.n-yorks.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Mr Bell (Class 3 teacher)