

# Class 3 Newsletter Spring 2023



Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear children, parents and families of Class 3,

Welcome back to school for 2023 - I hope you have all had a wonderful time over the Christmas period. Our learning journey this term will be an adventurous one, tied together by the theme 'Explorers'. Here is an outline of where our compass will take us:

## LITERACY

**Adventure / Mystery Stories Fiction (The Explorer):** This term we will read 'The Explorer', by Katherine Rundell, discussing its many themes of friendship, resilience, trust, self-discovery and responsibility. We will analyse how the author grips the reader so tightly and practise using these strategies in our own writing. At the end of the unit, we will write our own adventure / survival stories with gripping suspense, a strong atmosphere, well-developed characters and an underlying mystery.

**Newspaper Reports:** Throughout the term, we will read a range of newspaper reports, deepening our understanding of our geography, history and science topics, but at the same time learning about the distinctive characteristics of the 'newspaper report' genre. With these newly acquired skills, we will write our own newspaper reports about fictitious and real-life explorers.

**Argument:** Our geography, history and PSHE lessons will throw up many interesting topics for debate. By reading a range of well-written arguments on these and other topics, we will learn how to make our own arguments more coherent, balanced and persuasive and apply this knowledge in our own writing.

**Poetry (Creating Images):** In this unit we will read a number of poems which use figurative language to create powerful images in the reader's mind. Poetry games will help us to make bold and original choices, and avoid cliché, as we write our own poems inspired by the environment and our class topics.

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

## MATHS

**Measurement - Converting Units (Y6):** metric measures; converting metric measures; calculating with metric measures; miles and kilometres; imperial measures.

**Fractions (Y5):** Adding and subtracting mixed numbers; multiplying fractions; finding fractions of amounts; problem solving involving fractions.

**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.

**Decimals & Percentages:** 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; the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages and converting one to the other; ordering and comparing fractions, decimals and percentages; finding percentages of amounts.

**Measurement - Perimeter, Area & Volume:** 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.

**Reversible & Irreversible Changes** - In this unit we will participate in a number of experiments to explore reversible and irreversible changes to materials. We will use our knowledge of solids, liquids and gases to decide how mixtures might be separated using processes such as evaporating, condensing, sieving and dissolving. The signs and characteristics of physical and chemical changes to materials will be uncovered through our own investigations as we develop skills in close observation and experiment design.

**Forces (Levers, Pulleys and Gears):** In this unit we will design investigations to explore magnetic forces, gravity and friction. We will also explore the effect of mechanisms such as levers, pulleys and gears on forces and movement whilst developing skills in measurement, data collection and representation. Some aspects of this unit will be incorporated into our geography, history and DT topics where we will look at the importance of forces in sailing and ship design.

**History (Explorers):** In this unit we find out about the journeys of several explorers including Christopher Columbus, James Cook, Ernest Shackleton and Amelia Earhart. We will learn about the different motives for exploration, about the changes that came about as new parts of the world opened up, and about the extraordinary stories of tragedy and endurance - and what it tells us about human nature.

**Geography (North America):** This unit will primarily focus on the physical and human geography of the North American continent. This will include features such as major mountains, rivers and weather systems, as well as major cities, economic activities and trading relationships with the UK.

**Art (Pop Art and Cultural Traditions in Art):** Linking with our topic of 'Explorers', we will learn about the traditional 'folk' art of different cultures around the world. As we learn about the stories and ideas expressed through different traditional artworks, we will create our own artworks inspired by them. Later on we will look at the Pop Art movement of 1950s and 60s, discovering what artists such as Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol wanted to express about society and producing our own artworks inspired by them.

**Design & Technology (Pulleys & Gears):** Linked with our science topic, in this unit we will explore how configurations of pulleys and gears can be used to change the direction of a force or to obtain a mechanical advantage. A number of projects will incorporate pulleys and gears in their design.

**Religious Education (Expressing Beliefs):** In this topic we explore the various places where Christians, Hindus and people of Jewish faith go to worship. We will also find out about the different ways people express their beliefs, from architecture to acts of kindness.

**PSHE (Keeping Safe, Rights & Respect):** Through games and discussion, we will learn how to keep safe from dangers associated with the internet, social media and drugs. Later on we will find out about the rights and responsibilities of British citizens and how democracies work.

**READING** - Thank you for encouraging the children to read regularly during the Autumn term. By reading often, the children are growing their vocabularies, expanding their imaginations, developing their emotional intelligence and absorbing many of the skills that will help with their writing. If your child reads every day, please feel free to note this in the reading record instead of filling out the reading record for each day of the week. For example, you could write: 'Joe has read every night this week, up to page 142. (signed, Mr Bloggs).

**SAVE THE DATE! - COFFEE MORNING** - On **Wednesday 1st February** we will be holding a Coffee Morning and hamper raffle in school. We really hope you will be able to join us! We are planning to make hampers up from donations and would be grateful for any bottles, jars, boxed biscuits, toiletries such as bubble bath etc. Please do not send donations into school via the school bus. Thank you! Further details to follow.

**PE, Dance & Swimming** - Dance with Howard will continue this term so the children will need to have their PE kits and well-fitted trainers on both Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Swimming will also continue on Monday afternoons so the children will need to bring their swimming kits to school. For most of the Year 6 children however, swimming lessons will not continue beyond this half term after an assessment. We will let you know which children will continue Monday swimming lessons soon.

**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](mailto:jbelle@kim.n-yorks.sch.uk)

Kind regards,

Mr Bell (Class 3 teacher)