



St. Mary's C.E. School

Year 3: Half Termly Letter to Parents *Autumn 1, September 2019*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! It's set to be a magical year! Our aim is to fill the children with an excitement for learning and have many "WOW!" moments this year. We are looking forward to helping the children make their transition from KS1 to KS2.

In Year 3, children are expected to be more independent and take on more responsibility for themselves, their property and their learning.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to send an email via the PACT system.

Our topic this term will be 'Bright Sparks' where the children will become scientists and explore many aspects of electricity.

We will celebrate our learning at the end of our topic with a sharing session on **Wednesday 16th October at 2.30 - 3.10pm** in our Year 3 classroom, during which the children will present their learning. We hope that you will be able to join us and see what we have been learning.

English:

In English, the children will explore the text 'Iron Man' by Ted Hughes illustrated by Lauren Carlin. This version provides opportunities to explore the ways in which illustrations can support the text. They will make predictions about characters, draw comparisons, annotate drawings, write a persuasive letter, create list poetry exploring expanded phrases and fronted adverbials and produce diary extracts in the role of a character.

We will be reinforcing the grammar, spelling and punctuation that we learned in Year Two particularly looking at parts of speech and suffixes in spelling.

The children really enjoy slowly discovering the text as a class, for this reason please refrain from buying this text and reading it with them, so the magic and

wonder of revealing each page can be captured in class and allow the children to be excited to write and discuss the book.

I want to encourage their enthusiasm to explore reading, so I recommend the following texts which are related to our class text "Iron Man":

"The Robot and The Bluebird" by David Lucas and "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown.

Maths:

As mathematicians we will be looking at place value, subtraction and addition including:

- Recognising the place value of each digit in a three digit number (hundreds, tens and ones)
- Read and write numbers up to 1,000 in numerals and in words
- Compare and order numbers up to 1,000
- Finding 1, 10 and 100 more or less than a number
- Counting in 100s and 50s
- Adding and subtracting 100s
- Adding and subtracting numbers mentally, including: a three-digit number and ones, a three-digit number and tens and a three-digit number and hundreds
- Solving problems, including missing number problems, using number facts and place value
- Subtracting 10s from a 3-digit number

Science

As Scientists, we'll be finding out:

- Which common appliances run on electricity
- How to make an electrical circuit
- Which materials allow electricity to pass through them
- What happens when we change a circuit
- How to build bigger circuits
- About magnetism and electricity
- About using electricity as heat
- How to keep safe around electricity

History

As Historians, we'll be finding out:

- About the history of the electric light bulb

International

As global citizens, we'll be finding out:

- How we produce electricity in our country
- Why saving electricity is good for the planet

RE:

In RE this half term, we will be asking the question: 'What is the Bible's big story?' We will explore how The Bible came into being, how we got The Bible we use today, whether The Bible has many plots or one plot, why The Bible is sometimes referred to as a map for Christian life, what The Bible teaches about faith and what faith means to us as well as how Christians have shown faith and show faith today in spreading the 'Good News'.

Computing:

In Computing, we will be building on the touch typing skills we began developing in Year 2. As part of our IPC topic, we will also be learning and developing our general computer skills and look at the internet as a source of information.

ART:

We welcome our new Art teacher Mrs Adams who will provide specialist teaching of Art lessons. Across the school the children will be developing their drawing skills this half term. Everyone will have the opportunity to create the templates for Christmas cards and mugs in time for half-term.

Music:

This half term in Year 3 we will be concentrating on how to improve our singing technique and sing with an awareness of shape to bring songs to life. We will link the songs with their class topic of electricity.

We'll also compose a pentatonic ostinato to accompany a song, which will be recorded so that we can listen to the whole piece and complete our first written evaluation of a composition we have created.

PE:

Year 3 will be participating in PE lessons on a Monday, with Mr Naughton and on a Thursday with Miss McCarthy. This half term's activity will be Netball. Pupils will focus on the key sending and receiving techniques in Netball, as well as learning about the role of positions on the court and understanding the footwork/distance rules. Please note that the Children will need to come into school dressed in their PE kits every Monday and Thursday (On Thursday's children need to bring their uniforms in their bag to get changed after their PE Lesson).

PSHE:

Our theme is Being Me In My World. This will involve learning about helping others to feel welcome, making our school community a better place, thinking about other people's feelings and working well as a team and thinking about the right to learn.

FRENCH

This year, we are lucky to have specialist teaching by Madame Beig in French every Wednesday.

READING

Each child will be part of a Guided Reading Group where they will take part in shared reading. We will discuss the book and complete a focused learning task based around the text. This task will be completed in our quiet reading sessions in the week. They must also read a book in our independent reading sessions. Children are expected to read at home every night for at least 15 minutes. They will no longer have a reading journal but once they complete their book I will ask them a few questions and discuss the book before they choose another.

FLUTE

We will be having flute lessons on a Thursday afternoon. Your child will be provided with a flute to use. Please ensure that your child remembers to bring in the flute every Thursday. It is also essential that your child practices every week.

N.B

Save the date:

- **Meet and Greet Session**

An opportunity for you to visit the Year 3 classroom and meet Miss McCarthy will take place on **Wednesday 11th September at 6pm**. A presentation about the expectations in Year 3 will be provided as well as an opportunity to ask any questions about year 3.

- **Parent/Carer Workshops- How to Support your child with reading at home.**

Workshops will provide strategies to support and extend your child's reading at home and how to encourage reluctant readers and support struggling readers. Please sign up in the office:

Wednesday 6pm, 25th September

Wednesday 1.30pm, 2nd October

Regards,
Alisha McCarthy

HOME LEARNING

Maths and English: (Handed out on **Friday** to be handed in **Wednesday**)
Maths and English homework should be completed in the Maths or English home learning book. Can you please ensure that:

1. All work is presented clearly.
2. Anything that needs to be stuck in books, is trimmed and then stuck in.

NB:

- Mathematics login details are the same as Year Two. If you are unsure of your child's login details, please let me know via the email PACT system.
- Once a term a topic-based home learning task will be sent home.

Spellings and times tables: Tests will be on a **Friday**.

Reading: Daily for at least 15 minutes each evening. It is important that the children read aloud to you regularly and they also benefit greatly from you reading to them. Reading things such as articles in encyclopedias, newspaper, recipes, instruction texts, etc. Will broaden their understanding of reading across different contexts too.

Flute: Lessons are on a Thursday. Children must practice at least once a week any notes or pieces of music that we are learning.