



St. Mary's C.E. School
Year Three - Spring 1
January 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and trust that the children return refreshed and ready to go.

The children did brilliantly last term; we shall continue to build on their skills across the board as the year progresses. This half term will be a very busy and productive one, full of new topics and areas of study.

English:

In English, we will be starting a new Power of Reading text 'Pebble in My Pocket' by Meredith Hooper.

This text links with our Geography topic "Active Planet" where we will be looking at volcanoes and earthquakes.

Through this text the children will get the opportunity to explore an information book in depth, looking at the themes and issues, and develop and sustain ideas through discussion, use of creative responses to the text through drama, storytelling and artwork. Enabling the children the chance to develop creative responses to the text and write with confidence for real purposes and audiences. This will be achieved in various ways such as; explanatory text, poetry, recounts, persuasive writing, using procedural language and writing for information.

In grammar, we will be looking at prepositions, proper nouns, using paragraphs, using commas, and singular and plural words. In spelling, we will be looking at comparative adjectives.

If you wish to support your child's learning at home it would also be useful to begin to explore some aspects of geographical processes such as; erosion, weathering, glaciation and their knowledge of types of rocks.

The children really enjoy slowly discovering the text as a class, for this reason please refrain from buying "Pebble in My Pocket" 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.

How to support your child's learning:

I want to encourage their enthusiasm to explore reading, so I recommend the following texts which are related to our class text and topic; "A Stone for Sascha" by Aaron Becker, "A Rock is Lively" by Dianna Hutts Aston, "The Story of Life" by Catherine Barr and Steve Williams, "The Street Beneath My Feet" by Charlotte Guillian and Yuval Zommer, "Under Earth, Under Water" by Aleksandra Mizielińska and Daniel Mizieliński, "Story of Life: Evolution (Welcome To The Museum)" by Fiona Munro and Ruth Symons and "This Little Pebble" by Anna Claybourne.

Maths:

As Mathematicians we will be looking at:

- Multiplying by 8
- Dividing by 8
- 8 times-table
- Problem solving - multiplication and division
- Understanding divisibility
- Related facts - multiplication and division
- Comparing multiplication and division statements
- Related multiplication and division calculations
- Multiplying a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number
- Dividing a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number
- Problem solving - mixed problems
- Adding and subtracting amounts of money to give change, using both £ and p in practical contexts

Topic - "Active Planet"

The aim of this topic is for the children to understand that tectonic plates that form the Earth's crust are always moving. Even the smallest movement can cause huge earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis that devastate communities across wide areas. If we can understand what is happening underground we can learn to predict and protect ourselves in the future.

We will celebrate our learning at the end of our topic with a sharing session on Tuesday 11th February at 9.10 - 10am 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 the growth in your child's knowledge.

Geography

As geographers, we will be finding out:

- How volcanoes affect the lives of people
- How earthquakes affect the lives of people
- How volcanoes are created
- How earthquakes are created
- The names of famous volcanoes and where they are located in the world

- How earthquakes can be measured
- About how the Earth is formed

Science:

As Scientists, we'll be finding out:

- About solids, liquids and gases in volcanoes
- What happens when a volcano erupts
- What happens when rock melts
- How volcanoes can give off poisonous gas

History:

As Historians, we'll be finding out:

- About the devastation of Pompeii

Society

As Sociologists, we'll be finding out:

- About legends associated with volcanoes
- Why people continue to live in volcanic areas despite the dangers

RE:

As Theologists, we will be exploring the question "Who is Jesus?"

By exploring this question the children will learn:

- About Jesus' statements about himself, describing himself through symbolism;
- The 7 "I am. . ." statements of Jesus and their meanings to Christians;
- How the "I am..." statements relate to the personal lives of Christians;
- To create an "I am. . ." statement for Jesus;
- To consider how the meanings behind Jesus' "I am . . ." statements are relevant in their lives.

Computing:

As computer technicians, we'll be learning to:

- understand the SMART rules in detail
- Explore the theme of Safer Internet Day (SID)
- use computers/iPads responsibly and stay safe online
- Conduct a google search and record information
- Present things we have found out in an exciting and engaging way.
- Describe the features of a fake news article
- Use Google documents to write an article and discuss its effectiveness

ART:

Mrs Adams will continue to teach Year 3 these lessons with a focus on printing.

Music:

This half term we will be building on our knowledge and understanding of the pentatonic scale using Chinese music as a starting point. The focus will be on pitch and introducing ways of notating pitch and reading graphic scores then performing a pentatonic piece with tuned and untuned instruments. This will tie in with celebrating the Chinese New Year. We will also link their musical learning to their class topic of Active Planet and experiment with instruments to make volcano compositions.

Flute:

We will be continuing our flute lessons on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure that your child remembers to bring in the flute every Thursday. It is also essential that your child practices every week.

PE:

Year 3's half term's activity will be gymnastics. Pupils will focus on performing a variety of rolls and jumps in different shapes. In addition the class will practice balances on different levels and inverted balances. Similar skills will be linked and developed to create individual sequences in space.

PSHE:

In PSHE, we will be looking at our dreams and goals. We will look at how to overcome challenges and persevere when things are hard, working in groups, having a positive attitude, helping others achieve their goals and dreams, and achieving our own dreams and goals. This half term, we will also be looking at how to stay safe when using the internet.

FRENCH

We will continue to learn French with Madame Baig every Wednesday, reinforcing what we have already learned and adding to our vocabulary.

This half-term the main focus will be:

- To talk about la Fête des Rois and how it is celebrated in France.
- To understand and say some words for fruit in spoken French
- To understand and say if something is good for your health.
- Revise days of the week.
- To understand and use question "C'est bon pour la santé?"

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 should also have a book to read in our independent reading sessions. This may be one from the classroom or one from home. Please ensure that books brought from home are of a suitable level for your child. Children are expected to read at home every night for at least 15 minutes.

Regards,
The Year 3 Team

HOME LEARNING

Maths and English/Topic: Maths and English/Topic homework should be completed in the Maths or Home Learning book.

Home learning is given out on a Friday to be handed in on Wednesday.

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.

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.

Other: Please remember to write an email using the PACT system, tell me or Miss Overton in person or contact the school office if your child is being collected by someone different at the end of the day.