

## Welcome to Year Three – Autumn Term

The transition from Year Two to Year Three has been a resounding success and the children are feeling confident and excited in their new environment. We've had a lovely beginning of the year with the children and we have enjoyed looking at their 'All About Me' posters.

### The Year Three Curriculum

#### **Learning Themes in Year Three:**

- **Autumn:** Kings, Walls and Deer
- **Spring:** Prehistory
- **Summer:** The Romans

#### Autumn term learning theme: Kings, Walls and Deer

- **Geography:** we will investigate the answer to an enquiry question 'How did brick walls keep a King happy?' and compare the Royal Parks of London. We will carry out fieldwork in Richmond Park in the Summer Term. To prepare for this, we will do extensive map work skills including comparing satellite images and Ordnance Survey maps.
- **Art:** we will use natural things from our local environment to collect and print our memories.
- **Computing:** we will focus on sequencing instructions and writing simple programs. At the start of each term, we will focus on e-safety.
- **Science:** the topic this term will be 'Living Things and their Habitats' (which links well with the work that the children will do in Richmond Park), followed by 'Plants.'

### English

We will read a variety of texts in class this term. These include 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters' by John Steptoe, 'Children of Lir' by Shelina MacGill-Callahan and 'The Happy Prince' by Oscar Wilde. The children will also read a range of non-fiction books to gather information about The Royal Parks of London.

### Reading

- Year 3 expectations are that children will read for **at least ten minutes per day** at home.
- **Reading with or to your child** is still very important, as well as **hearing them reading aloud**.

- **Journals:** the children have kept the same journals from Key Stage 1. Please can your child now take responsibility for writing their entry in their journal, in pencil, at least **four times** a week. We ask children to have their reading journals with them **every day**, as their journals will be signed by your child's teacher. From next week, the children will be given a specific day to hand in their journals. This is so that we can look at their journals in more detail. It will also prepare them for their new journals which they will receive after the Christmas holiday.

## Mathematics

Our focus for the beginning of the year will be place value. Place value determines the value of a digit in a number based on the location of the digit. For example, if you look at the number '52', 5 is worth 5 tens or 50 and in the number '523', 5 is worth 5 hundreds or 500. Children need to understand the difference between ones, tens, hundreds and thousands (example:  $243 = 200 + 40 + 3$  or 2 hundreds, 4 tens and 2 ones). It will help when ordering numbers or rounding to the nearest 10 or 100. We will also focus on children's fluency and methods for addition and subtraction calculations.

To start off the year, it would be helpful to practise these particular skills:

- halving and doubling
- number bonds to 10, 20, 100 but also bonds to 15, 7, 30 (example:  $1 + 9 = 10$       $2 + 8 = 10$ )
- subtraction facts for 10, 20, 50, 100 (example:  $10 - 2 = 8$       $50 - 35 = 15$ )
- practise 2s, 5s and 10s times tables

## PE

This term, the children will be doing gymnastics. They will be learning a series of floor exercises to develop core strength, as well as composing routines in pairs and small groups.

Please remember:

- PE kits should be in school at all times and taken home for washing at half term.
- If your daughter **wears tights** to school, please remember she needs a pair of **socks in her PE bag**.

## Additional art

We are extremely lucky to have an Artist in Residence at Barnes, Olivia Bernus-Price. Children benefit from being taught art skills in a small group with her. All children get an opportunity to work with Olivia at some stage in the year.

## Home Learning

Home learning will be sent home each week on a **Friday** and the home learning book needs to be **handed in the following Thursday** (there will be a clearly labelled tray in each classroom). This half term home learning will consist of spelling practise, learning their times tables and another main activity linked to mathematics, English, science, geography or history.

Later in the term, we will use exercises from the CGP Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation home learning book. These will need to be purchased for every child via the online school shop in due course. Details about these books will be sent out via parent mail later on this term.

## Spelling

- Spellings are **given out on a Friday** and the children are **tested the following Friday**. These will follow a spelling pattern investigated in class. We feel that this approach will ensure that children are having the opportunity to consolidate what they are learning in their spelling patterns lessons.
- The children should write out their spellings **once per day** on the sheet – the repetition really helps their memory. Little and often is key! It really doesn't benefit the children as much if they write them out in one session. The children will take the test on Friday on the reverse of the spelling sheet (numbered 1-10). **Please do not write on the reverse page.**
- Children should practise their cursive (joined up) handwriting when they write on their spelling sheet.
- Additionally, the children will be tested on the next 200-300 Barnes high frequency words once every term and will be given a personalised card to take home. More details about this to follow in the coming weeks.

We have explained a few strategies below that you may find useful to help your child learn their weekly spellings and become a confident and accurate speller in Year 3:

- **Sounding words out** (breaking the words into phonemes e.g. sh-e-ll, looking for spelling patterns, prefixes and suffixes e.g. jump-ing)
- **Breaking the word up into syllables saying each syllable as they write the word** (e.g. re-mem-ber)
- **Use the look, say, cover, write, check method** (look at the word, say it out loud, cover it, write it and check to see if it is correct)
- **Use mnemonics** (e.g. because – big elephants cause accidents under small elephants)
- **Rainbow writing** (write over the shape of the word many times using different colours)
- **Look for words within words** (e.g. rat in separate)

- **Funny mispronunciations** (say the word how it looks e.g. w-ant, w-hen, w-hat).

### **Times tables**

The children will have timed times table tests on **Fridays**. To start the year, we will just focus on multiplication facts and the children will have 2 minutes to complete as many of the 14 questions as they can. To help develop fluency the length of this time will be reduced later in the year.

Please time your child whilst they are practising, as they often like the challenge of trying to beat their score each day! Don't forget that there are many interactive times tables games available on the internet and apps on the iPad. The 'Cloud Tables' app is a great one or 'Hit the Button' is a game that is available on the internet. The times tables that your child is working on will be recorded on their home learning sheet each week.

### **General information:**

#### **What time does my child need to be in the classroom?**

The Year 3 doors open at 8:45am and one of the class teachers will be on the door every day this term. The Year 3 door will close at 8:55am because the class teachers need to be back in their classroom ready to take the register at that time. You will need to enter the KS2 building via the Key Stage 2 reception, if you arrive after 8:55am. A child is recorded as late if they arrive at their classroom after registers close at 9:00am.

#### **Contacting Teachers:**

We are always around at the end of the day (except for Tuesdays due to a staff meeting) and are very happy to talk to you. If you require more than a few minutes, please arrange an appointment directly with the class teacher.

As per our email policy we kindly ask that you do not email before 7am or after 9pm and on the weekends.

#### **Labelling belongings:**

- Can we politely request that all items of clothing, bags and lunch boxes are all **clearly labelled (including surname)**.

#### **Water bottles and healthy snacks:**

- Every child needs a **labelled water bottle**. School water bottles are available from the school office. Children will bring their water bottles home on a Friday to be washed. Please ensure they come back every Monday already filled.
- Please ensure your child has something to eat at morning break. **Healthy snacks only please**: fruit, cereal bars, crackers, or cheese. **No crisps, chocolate, nuts or sweets please.**

**Parent Helpers:**

We are extremely grateful for any of your time. We are looking for regular help with reading, either at 8:30-9:00 or 2:45-3:15, ideally 2-3 times a week. Help with reading can and does have the most enormous impact on a child's self esteem and life chances.

We hope you have found this information useful.