

# What's going on in Year 3?

This page aims to give information about the subject areas that your child will be covering in their classes and in their English and maths sets.

This information is for the week commencing: Monday 8th January 2018

## English

We begin a new unit of work this week based on the book 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. We will use this text over at least the next four weeks, thinking about character and plot development, and the language used and the impact that it has on the reader. We will also write some non-fiction pieces based on this book. This week, we will read the first part of the story and think about the images that are created in our minds, and which words and phrases the author uses to create this. The children will also have a chance to act out some parts of the text, thinking about how to say certain words.

## Phonics & Handwriting

Over this two week cycle, we will focus on homophones. These are words that sound the same but have different meanings and are sometimes spelt differently too, e.g: write/right, read/reed, and hear/here.

The children will complete 5 activities over the 2 week cycle linked to this work on homophones. Two of the activities are handwriting. The teacher focus activity continues to be spelling. The children are working on spelling key words and they are differentiated according to your child's needs.

## Maths

We are starting a new unit of work this half term on **multiplication and division**.

The children will share what they understand about these areas in problems solving contexts. They will be encouraged to use practical resources to explain what they know and use known facts to help them, e.g: "*I know  $10 \times 3$  is 30, so  $9 \times 3$  must be 3 less than 30.*"

We will look at multiplication as an array and as repeated addition. We will also focus on counting in 3s and begin to learn the 3x table.

Please see the calculation policy on the school website for more information about the way that we teach multiplication and division so you can support your child at home.

## Mental maths test

The mental maths test this week will focus on the **2, 5 and 10 x tables** that the children need to have an instant recall of, out of sequence. The children should also be able to relate this to division facts. Eg:  $5 \times 3 = 15$ , so I also know  $15 \div 3 = 5$ . There are lots of online games to help practise these facts if you want some different ways to learn them at home.

## Topic

We begin our new topic this week on 'Ancient Egypt'. Initially, we will find out what the children already know and what they might like to find out. We will also look at a timeline to establish when the ancient Egyptians lived.

## Spellings

A letter will be sent home this week, explaining how the children will now bring home spellings to learn over a 2 week cycle. Please look out for this and do come in to ask any questions about how this will work if you have any.