



21st February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a restful holiday and are ready for the next half term!

Here are the topic areas we are focusing on over the next (almost) 6 weeks:

Maths: In the first week back we will complete our unit on multiplication and division. The children should now know or be learning their 3, 4 and 8x tables and have methods for solving different multiplication and division based questions. Next week we move on to our new unit on measures. Within this unit the children will be introduced to millimetres and build on their knowledge of centimetres and metres. They will be converting different units of measures by partitioning. Please see the maths home learning sheet and don't forget to look at the 'mymaths' activities that have been added on that are linked to this unit.

Topic: Our new topic is explorers and adventurers. This is a geography and history unit. We will be finding out about famous explorers throughout history and looking at the challenges they faced, caused by the different climates they experienced.

English: To link in with our new topic we will be reading some different adventure stories this half term. We will be specifically focusing on the story of Gulliver using the book by Jonathan Coe. We will be writing diary entries, character descriptions and discussing the story in detail.

Science: Our new topic this half term is Forces and Magnets. We will be learning about friction and understanding how magnets attract and repel. The children will also be planning and carrying out a scientific investigation.

Spelling: We continue with our spelling and handwriting carousels. The focus for these this half term will be:

- completing the carousel on adding the suffix ly where the root word changes
- words with the short /i/ sound where it is made by y (e.g.: symbol, system, myth)
- words where the /k/ sound is made by ch (eg ache, school)
- words ending in ed, ing and er. (jumped, jumping and jumper)

The children will continue to bring home their individual spellings to learn. These will usually be high frequency/key words but may sometimes link to the spelling rule we are working on in class.

Please help your child to practise these words, specifically using them in a sentence. Don't forget to look at the word lists that were emailed home last half term that will give you an idea of where your child is in terms of spelling and extra words to challenge and support them as necessary.

Reading

In whole class guided reading sessions the focus continues to be on developing inference and comprehension skills. This involves answering and asking questions about different texts, making predictions and finding evidence within the text to support their views.

The children are also learning to scan text to find relevant information and try and summarise what they have read. You can help them with this at home by reading parts of a story (them to you or you to them) and talking about the key parts that have happened. When they share views or tell you how characters are feeling ask them, "What clues are there in the text that support this?" as opposed to just, "Why do you think that?" which is more focused on their own ideas.

The children do get to read aloud in small groups with the teacher and those children who need more support with reading are read with once a week by the class teacher. However we really want to stress the importance of continuing to read with your children regularly (daily if possible). Even those children who are reading independently and are reading chapter books should still continue to read with you, and you to them. This is vital in developing their confidence and enjoyment of reading and is one of the most powerful ways in which you can help your child develop and achieve. This doesn't have to be a school reading book; you can choose one from the library, read a comic or non-fiction.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 1st March – Parents' Evening 4-6pm and 6.30-8pm West hall

Thursday 1st March – World book Day

Thursday 8th March – Sets Parents' Evening – Year 4-6 only 4-6pm and 6.30-8pm West hall

Thursday 8th March 9AM - Reading in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 – This is a morning session for parents and carers.

Friday 23rd March is Sport Relief – more information will be sent home about how the events we'll be having at school and fundraising activities.

Wednesday 21st March at 7pm – 'The importance of play and emotional well-being' This is an evening session open to all parents and carers; more information will follow.

Thursday 29th March – last day of Spring term

Monday 16th April – first day of Summer Term

Friday 6th July INSET day – school closed for all children

Thanks for your support. As always if you have any questions or concerns please do come and speak to us.

The Year 3 team