



January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely break and are ready for the term ahead!

Here is an overview for our learning this half term:

Maths: The focus for the start of this half term continues to be **multiplication and division**. So far, we have focused on the mental strategies. The children have been learning to count in multiples of 3, 4 and 8 as well as revising 2, 5 and 10 from Year 2. The children need to develop an instant recall of these facts to apply in problem solving activities. The mental maths test on Friday will link to this and we will use Parent Hub to show the specific focus each week.

This half term we will move on to focusing on the written methods to answer questions where we won't have the known fact to hand, eg. 25×8 . The children will be learning more formal written methods to solve multiplication and division questions, but the focus does remain on them understanding, in practical terms, what multiplication and division means and choosing the best method to solve a problem (not always a written method). Please do look at the calculation policy found on the school website to show the methods we teach in more detail.

English: We start with a poetry unit this half term. We are looking at the book 'Poetry Pie' by Roger McGough and will be exploring some of his poems and the techniques he uses. The children will be performing, reading and discussing different poems from this book as well as having a go at writing some of their own poems based on his.

We will then be moving on to a fiction unit based on '**The Iron Man**' by Ted Hughes. We will be exploring the plot and characters within this text and thinking about the images created by the language used. The children will be writing diary entries in role, persuasive letters, predicting parts of the story and rewriting sections, including those with speech. We will be continuing our learning on sentence and word types and will be learning how to break writing down into paragraphs.

Science: We are learning all about 'Light' this term. Our focus areas will include: light sources or light reflectors, shadows and how we protect our eyes.

History: Our history topic this half term is the Indus Valley. We have already introduced this area in our previous geography lessons on rivers when we learnt about the river Indus and the countries it travelled through. In this topic we will explore this ancient civilisation, finding out about how these people lived and their beliefs.

Geography: We are learning all about Settlements this half term in geography. The children will be using some of their history knowledge and previous geography learning to find out about why people settle in different places. We will be learning about different sized settlements in this country and some around the world. We will be thinking about how they vary in size and have different facilities.

Religion and World views: Our learning this half term is a topic called 'What is important to me?'. Within this topic the children will be talking about identity and being part of different communities. The focus is mainly on Christianity, though a couple of lessons will focus more explicitly on Judaism and there are references to other religions throughout the topic.

MyMaths: There are some activities on MyMaths based on what we are learning at school this term. Some of the activities your child may be able to do independently, but with some of them your child may need some adult support.

Dates for your diaries

Friday 19th January: Sibling photos

Monday 29th January: INSET day (school is closed for all children)

Any questions please do come and speak to us.

Thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely

The Year 3 team