



## Spring 2 Half Term Information for Parents Year 3

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

This information sheet tells you about what your child will be learning over the course of this half term. We are continuing with our core theme of "Sustainability" and will be using this as a hook to cover the National Curriculum. This half-term we will further our knowledge of living sustainably and use this as a hook to produce a variety of different pieces of writing.

**Themes:** Spring - Sustainability

**English: Writing:** The children will develop their ability to critique their own art pieces and write a commentary to display alongside it. We will also explore veganism as part of looking at sustainable living and subsequently produce a recipe for a tasty vegan soup. We were made aware last half term of the ICUN Red List of endangered animals after reading "Red Alert" by Catherine Barr and Anne Wilson, therefore we are going to create a fictional diary entry as one of the animals from the endangered animals listed, which will be voted on by the class using our pupil voice. Finally, we are going to get creative by planning and performing our very own "sustainability raps".

**Reading:** Children will continue to take part in a group reading session, once a week. Here, we will study the structural and language features of a text while also fostering a love of reading across a range of genres. Children will develop their prediction skills as well as justifying inferences with evidence and explore paragraphs, discovering the main ideas and recalling key facts.

**Speaking and Listening:** Children will use relevant strategies to build their vocabulary, exploring synonyms with a wow word of the week and vocabulary taken from class novel as part of our "magpie words" display. If children find wow words at home they are welcome to add them to our display! Children will use the spoken word to perform confidently their very own "Sustainability raps".

**Maths:** Using a Mastery approach in Maths, Children will develop their understanding of money further by adding/subtracting pounds and pence to give change. This will be done practically and will involve converting pounds and pence.

Children will also explore statistics and how to analyse basic data. This will include pictograms, bar charts and tables.

Children will investigate length and perimeter by measuring lengths, comparing and finding equivalent lengths within mm, cm and m. Your child/ren will be able to measure and calculate the perimeter of a shape once they have understood the process of adding and subtracting lengths.

Children will aim to gain a strong understanding of Fractions in Spring 2 by finding equivalent fractions, learning how to compare fractions, ordering fractions based on their size and finally add and subtract fractions.

**Times Tables Rockstars:** We will continue to complete friendly a challenge weekly where we will attempt to complete 60 familiar times tables equations in 4 minutes. This is a personal challenge aimed at improving times tables fluency (speed of answers) and children are not encouraged to compare results.

**PE: Swimming and multi-skills:** Children will now swap groups this half term back to their original groups. Your child will participate in a swimming group every 5-6 weeks. Here, they will learn about water safety and key skills involving stroke technique and buoyancy. In PE, children will complete a variety of skill based games aimed at trying to improve basic agility, accuracy and co-ordination to ultimately improve performance in sports.

**RE:** Children will learn about aspects of Holi (taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March) and the legend of demon King Hiranyakashyap. This will be covered in whole school assemblies. Children will learn about aspects of Easter. They will discuss the significance of Lent as a season of preparation for Easter, discuss the significance of Shrove Tuesday, identify the main events during Lent such as Ash Wednesday and Mothering Sunday, examine what Christians in the immediate area do during Lent, discuss the events during Holy Week leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and will prepare the Passover meal and emphasise the significance of the bread and the wine that constituted the last supper. Children will know that Easter is important to Christians because its celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and that Easter is a special and happy time of the year involving stories, events, artefacts and traditions, although it is proceeded by a solemn time when Christians prepare for and reflect on the crucifixion of their founder and know that the Bible is the main source of information about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Children will learn about Moses and the Exodus, what this story means and what it tells us about God. They will learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit, introducing the term Trinity. Children will read the story of the Exodus and will sequence pictures of the main events including the ten plagues. We will examine the role of Moses. Children will know that many Jewish festivals are shaped by stories in scripture and know that such stories shape Jewish belief and practice.

**DT:** Linking our previous learning about rivers, in Geography and looking ahead to our studies of Ancient

Egypt, the children will look into the mechanics of how a shaduf works by furthering their understanding of levers and pulleys. The children will understand that before creating they must design and plan something by sketching, following a design criteria to be successful. The children will then select the appropriate equipment in which to carry out their creation. The children will then critique their shaduf against the set design criteria.

**French:** The children will be developing their speaking and listening skills further and be introduced to more word reading aspects of French. They will be asked to recall certain facts taught in Autumn such as basic colours, days of the week, numbers and songs. Children will then be taught to read basic rhymes and stories together in pairs, using picture prompts where needed. The children will then attempt to read labels in French and apply them to the correct objects within the classroom.

**Art (continued from Spr 1):** The children will observe and critique famous watercolour artists and take inspiration from their ideas. We will look closely at the effect watercolour painting can give and apply them to our own drawing. We will also develop our ability to create observational drawing by looking at the Tyne Bridge and other famous drawings of the landmark. Once our artwork is completed, the children will develop their evaluation skills and offer feedback to others.

**Science (continued from Spr 1):** This term we will look at light and dark. Your child will be taught about the job light plays in helping us to see colour. Your child will discover how we can use light to help us see important things by using retro-reflective materials. Children will discuss various light sources and discuss the moon as a light source. We will look closely at mirrors and how they use light to reflect images back. Children will also investigate how shadows can be distorted and changed depending on where the light source is situated.

**Computing:** The children will develop a further understanding of the World Wide Web as a link that connects various different appliances that all work together. They will do this within the class room using wool as a physical activity. The children will explore Google Docs and be shown how that is one document, which is connected to numerous devices capable of editing. The children will also explore Gmail and discover how these messages can be sent from one device to another. Within this, we will ensure we are responsible with the information we share and understand that anything we share to another person is no longer within our control as this can be copied and shared an infinite number of times. The children will also look at inputs and outputs by using the app LightBox. This allows children to create repeated processes within code.

#### **How can you help?**

- Often children will have tasks to complete for group reading (e.g. reading a chapter before the next week). These will be recorded in planners to remind children.
- Help your child to explore their weekly spelling rule where they are tasked with finding at least 5 words which fit this rule. It is the words which they find, which will form our spelling check.
- Children complete a Times Tables Rockstars test in maths each Friday and you will begin to see

their score gradually increase. I will send this home in planners to allow children the chance to practise strategies at home as this will help them to beat their score.

### **Homework**

The homework which we set will be related to our topic and/or phonics and will benefit the children in their learning journey. Children are given a spelling rule each week to practise and learn at home. They then complete a spelling check activity the following Friday to check their understanding of this rule. Additionally, we will continue to provide children with a half termly homework grid with a range of activities linked to our topic.

### **Visits/Visitors/Events**

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March – Y3/4 Athletics Shield/Cup

TBC – Trip to Plessey Woods (river trip)

5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – British Science Week

12<sup>th</sup> March – Parent Evening

20<sup>th</sup> March Y3 Coffee Morning