



Autumn 1 Half Term Information for Parents Year 3

Happy children aiming high.

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you had a lovely summer and are excited for the new term ahead – we have lots in store! You will be aware of the challenging times we have faced but I am thrilled that school has returned! I will do my very best to help your children to make up ground on any missed learning they may have lost and help your children adjust to life in Year 3 as smoothly and as confidently as they can under these strange circumstances. This information sheet tells you about what your child will be learning over the course of this half term, and will make clear how this learning links to our curriculum theme of 'aspirations'. We hope that you find it useful.

Themes: Autumn – Aspirations

English: Writing: Children will learn aspects of spelling, punctuation and grammar in their Literacy lessons which they will then be given the opportunity to apply in their written work. They will also explore the structure of various pieces of writing, across a range of genres and will consider how this structure is useful and appropriate. Children will be given the opportunity to write at length in a range of contexts. We will use texts such as *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura to inspire children to become explorers and archaeologists. Whilst reading the text, children will learn to rewrite the story from memory and writing letters. Also, close links will be made to PSHE by looking closely at the concept of Growth Mindset through reading *You Are Awesome* by Matthew Syed. Children will discover that famous and successful people have achieved after failure and were ordinary people before becoming mega-stars. Children will then produce leaflets to inspire other children and raise their aspirations and become positive and resilient learners.

Reading: Children will take part in a guided reading group 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 have the opportunity to discuss what they like/dislike about the book and will begin to form opinions on their favourite genres. **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. If children find wow words at home they are welcome to add them to our display! Children will begin to articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions, taking part in a class debate regarding gender role in the military. Within this they will consider and evaluate different viewpoints, attending to and building on the contributions of others. Children will be given the opportunity to speak for a range of different purposes; including for expressing feelings: maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments.

Computing: Children will broaden their knowledge of ICT software and create an informative screencast to display their knowledge about the Stone Age and the progress towards the Iron Age (Evolution).

E-Safety: Age restrictions on games and online activities. Children will learn why age restrictions exist and why some sites require a user to verify their age. **Staying safe online:** Using a range of given scenarios, children will consider the best and most responsible course of action using the NHFS 'zip it, block it, flag it' icons.

History: In Year 3 we will be exploring the Stone Age and how the Stone Age people developed settlements and discovered fire. We will link this to the topic of aspirations by discussing what made these people decide to improve their standard of living and seek out tools, which would revolutionise how they hunted and gathered to survive. Children will discover what life was like for these people through drama

activities and workshop experiences. We will look carefully at Stonehenge as a piece of sculptural art and discuss what its relevance was during this time.

PE: NUFC—multi-skills and Commando Joes: We have introduced a brand new and exciting PE curriculum, this year. Commando Joes is a fantastic scheme aimed at improving childrens fitness as well as working on key character trait. Using the acronym RESPECT (resilience, empathy, self-awareness, positivity, excellence, communication and team work) children will be encouraged to develop holistically and not just physically. **Swimming:** Sadly, due to COVID-19 we must wait to hear if we can return to Astley High School for group lessons. I am aware that individual swimming lessons are continuing outside of school; however it is the mixing of full classes of children, which we are still trying to avoid at present. As soon as we are made aware of any changes to this, you will be informed promptly.

PSHE and RE: Many of these themes will be covered through incidental opportunities, whole school assemblies as well as class assemblies. We will establish the purpose of rules and law. Working together, children will have the chance to use their pupil voice, expressing those rules and values which they think are important to our classroom. Through our study of lifestyles and communities within Christianity in RE, children will explore issues concerning the customs and traditions of people living in the UK. They will explore the 10 commandments and draw comparisons between British Values. We will consider what it means to belong, belonging to a community/society, then considering anti-social behaviours and their impact on society.

Maths: Using a Mastery approach in Maths, we will explore 3-digit numbers by ordering, comparing and writing in both numerals and words. We will be slowly building up to these activities and using White Rose catch-up sessions, where needed. We will partition numbers across 1,000 into hundreds, tens and ones and represent these numbers pictorially, physically (using place value counters) and as numbers. We will count in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100 in addition to finding 100, 10 and 1 more than any number across 1,000. We will solve problems and give reasons for our answers as often as possible in order to be able to apply our knowledge to real-world settings. We will begin to add and subtract numbers across 1,000 using many strategies, primarily the columnar method. We will develop our understanding of the inverse operation and use this to check our answers. **Times Tables Rockstars:** We will 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.

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 mental maths test and Times Tables Rockstars test in maths each Friday and you will begin to see their score gradually increase. You can help by asking your child to rehearse their times tables at home to improve fluency.

Homework

The homework which we set will be related to our topic and/or phonics and will benefit the children in their learning journey —We are currently deciding what form this homework will take due to coronavirus restrictions. 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.