



January 2017

Dear Year 3 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable break over Christmas and the New Year. Thank you for the many good wishes, cards and gifts which Mrs Mussell and I received before the Christmas break; they were all much appreciated.

Areas of Study, Spring Term 2017

Science	Animals (including humans): skeletons and nutrition; Plants
ICT	Coding; introduction to databases
History	Ancient Greeks
RE	Sacred Places
Art	Portraits
Music	Musical elements; Introduction to Garageband
PE	Hockey; netball; tennis; swimming
English	Myths and legends
Maths	Column addition and subtraction; multiplication; division; measurement; simple equivalent fractions; telling time to the nearest minute; mental maths

Timetable

There are some changes to the afternoon timetable this term. A copy is appended.

Equipment

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for school and that it is **all labelled clearly**.

Writing equipment should be in a **transparent pencil case**. This may seem unnecessary, but it saves a great deal of time and fuss as it is easy to see what and where things are and eradicates competitive pencil cases and pencil case envy. The only items which should be in the pencil case are 2 or 3 HB pencils, a 30cm ruler, a whiteboard (dry wipe) pen, a rubber, a pencil sharpener (metal) and a glue stick. A separate pencil case containing colouring crayons or felt tips may also be brought in: the children will keep this in their drawer when it is not needed. Please do not supply lots of extra rubbers or pencils, and do not send in pens, as they are not needed in year 3. Excessive equipment will be sent home. I can always supply a pencil in an emergency, and whiteboard pens can be purchased from the office for 40p. If you would like to donate a glue stick to the class it will be gratefully received.

Swimming

This term the children will be having swimming lessons at Amersham Pool on Friday afternoons. Swimming kit should be brought in every week in a plastic bag, not a back pack or holdall as there is not enough room on the pegs. **Please ensure that everything is labelled**. The greatest problems the children have are keeping all their belongings together when they get changed and then getting dressed quickly afterwards, so anything you can do to ensure that neither possessions, nor time, are lost (for example, encouraging them to put their socks inside their shoes, or making sure they can do up buttons and tie their shoe laces) would be an enormous help.

In order to protect office staff time and to teach children's levels of ownership, independence and resilience, the school will not be phoning or texting parents to request any forgotten kits. If any kit is

discovered in the car after drop off, it can be delivered during the morning, but should just be left in the Howe Lobby drop box and it will be your child's responsibility to collect it. The school have purchased some spare unisex swimming kits and small towels. The change last term to the spare school PE kits (a bright yellow T-shirt) has miraculously succeeded in children not forgetting their PE kits anymore. We are hoping that one forgetful week and having to wear a school swimming kit will also effectively bring about a magic change in children's memories!

Homework

Children who attend homework club should bring their books back home with them so that you can see what your child is doing. Homework for subjects other than maths or literacy might be set occasionally. When this is the case, children will receive less homework for numeracy and literacy. Please sign the homework diary every week and also use it to send messages or ask any questions.

Times tables

Please continue to work on times tables along with the corresponding division facts. Focus on the 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 tables. If your child struggles with times tables, just take them one table at a time and revise them at least three times a week. Also, help them to think of strategies to work out answers which do not come readily, e.g. if they know $10 \times 6 = 60$, then they can work out 9×6 by working out 10×6 and then subtracting 6. Should your child already be fluent in the times tables listed, please start them on the 7,8,9, times tables.

Spelling

There will be weekly spelling lists for the children to learn. Sometimes these will link to work on spelling patterns, and other times they will link to vocabulary from the subjects they are studying. The method I suggest for learning new words has two stages: 1 Look – say - copy; 2 cover- write – check.

Reading

Children should be reading daily. Please listen to your child reading at least three times a week. Either you or your child should make a note of each day's reading in their reading record. This could be simply the page numbers, or could be more elaborate (eg a summary, or a new word, or what they liked/disliked). They will receive a housepoint if they record that they have read three times in a week and you have signed their reading record, with extra housepoints available for extra reading. When listening to them read, let them try to work out new or unfamiliar words first. Also, encourage them to read a range of books. Do discuss what they are reading and ask them to make predictions about what will happen in stories. Please ask me if you would like any advice on how to support your child when they are reading.

Volunteers to listen to children reading

This type of support normally happens between 9.00 and 9.30am. You don't need to be free to help every day - once a week is good, too. If you are able to help this term (on a fairly regular basis) please contact me. It really does make a difference.

Please let me know if you come across any good books or websites so that these can be shared with the rest of the class. If you have any questions or concerns, please come and speak to me when I am on the playground (though not when I am on duty on Monday morning) or make an appointment through the office.

Mr M Robson (Year 3 Teacher)

YEAR 3 TIMETABLE, SPRING 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Hymn Practice	Assembly	Assembly	Class Assembly	Assembly	
Literacy (Grammar)	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Numeracy	
Break					
Spelling/phonics	Spelling/phonics	Guided reading	Guided reading	Times tables	
Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy	Literacy	
Lunch					
Handwriting	French	Mental Maths	Ocarinas	PSHCE	RE
ICT	Science	Music (till 1/2 term)	Art (after 1/2 term)	PE	Swimming
Geography	Golden Time (15 mins)			History	RE