



Year 3 Spring Newsletter 2020

Welcome to the Spring term!

In Jupiter class we will be taking part in many activities, a sample of which is highlighted below. In particular we are excited about our Ancient Egypt topic, which will delve into the history and culture of this fascinating civilisation through interactive lessons, art, science and computing.

We are looking forward to another excellent term: This newsletter will explain all the amazing new topics that your child will be learning and some useful tips to help maximise their progress and enjoyment.

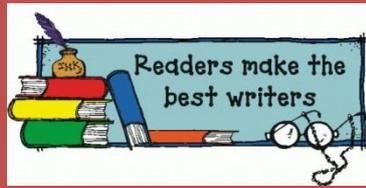
In Year 3 we have a positive culture and can-do attitude: we are all keen to learn and always focused on the task in hand. We encourage children to be independent, resilient learners and to take pride in their work.

Our trip this term will be to the British Museum where we will come face to face with real-life mummies and other Ancient Egyptian artefacts.

If you have any comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us as we would like to continue our excellent home-school relationships, and aim to provide high-quality information, clear communication and an 'open-door' policy. Should you find it difficult to speak to us before or after school, please feel free to telephone us via the school office on 020 8520 6267.

Thank you for all your continued support. We look forward to another exciting term with your children in Jupiter class!

The Year 3 Team



Literacy

Following on from last autumn's learning about Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale, The Tinderbox, this half term we are reading Egyptian Cinderella and comparing this story to the traditional story the children are familiar with. We will then plan our own traditional fairy tale with an Egyptian inspired theme. In addition, we will read famous Egyptian myths and create newspaper stories based on these. We will also learn how to write instructions to making a mummy.

Next half term we are studying Shakespeare's play, Macbeth.

Moreover, in Whole Class Reading we will be exploring the science fiction text, The Iron Man and practising the different skills to comprehend this text. We will discuss ideas and themes and rehearse how to answer specific comprehension questions based on this text.

Please give your child opportunities to read independently and aloud to practise expression. We encourage a level of independence with this: your child will be reminded, but it is their responsibility to change their books. We appreciate how much support you give your children with reading and we are already seeing an improvement in their fluency and understanding. Please continue to read at home as much as possible. The expectation is that your child reads for at least 20 minutes each day. You could ask them questions about their reading to further develop their understanding of the text that they are reading. If you would like further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The children will be taught grammar as part of their literacy lessons, together with spelling strategies – **a test will be conducted every Friday.**

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their literacy skills:

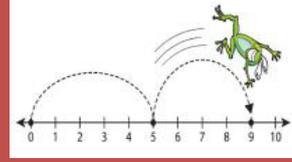
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/english/>

<https://uk.ixl.com/ela/year-3>

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>



Mathematics



We will be learning to use our knowledge of multiplication sums and their inverse to solve missing number problems. We will develop our mathematical fluency and use this to help us problem solve and undertake investigation activities.

We will also be learning about the properties of 2D and 3D shapes and units of measurement, solving problems to do with time, weighing and measure length and distance. Sharing every day experiences such as telling the time, time-planning and reading timetables will really help to support your child to do well in this topic.

Generally, we will be focusing on word problems and being able to explain what you need to do to get to an answer when there is more than process.

Continuing our drive to make children confident mathematicians, we will be focusing on the skill explaining our answers as well as solving them.

For example: *'I know there is a consistent pattern in the units for the 4x table. Therefore, I know that $63 \div 4$ is likely to have a remainder.'*

Please continue to support your child with their maths at home! We are big believers that mental maths is the key to a greater understanding of mathematics. Therefore, it is the expectation that after half term, children will practise their given multiplication tables at home every day.

Maths homework will be set alternate Fridays.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their maths skills:

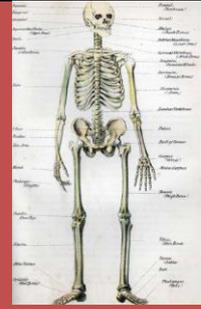
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks2/maths/>

<https://www.mathsisfun.com/> The 'Math Trainer' is especially good at practising their times tables at speed.

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2numeracy.html>

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>

<http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>



Science

Our topic this term is light and shadow. We are looking at light sources and how shadows are formed. We will also be investigating how shadows change during the day because of the position of the sun and shadow puppets. At the end of this unit we will design and make our own puppet theatre, applying our knowledge about this topic.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their science skills:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/science/>

<http://www.resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/science>

<http://www.kidspot.com.au/kids-activities-and-games/science>



Humanities

We are really looking forward to learning about the wonders of ancient Egypt. In this unit we will explore when the Egyptian civilisation became and compare this to what was happening in Britain at this time. We will also learn about what life could have been like living in Egypt at this time, their belief system, mummification processes, famous pharaohs and exploring who built the pyramids and why.

This topic will form the basis of our Home Learning Project, where children will research and create different objects inspired by ancient Egyptian artefacts. For more information, please look at the Home Learning Project sheet for further information.



Computing

We will be creating their own museum in the shape of a pyramid using Minecraft. We will also continue to discuss and learn about how we can use of the internet safely.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their computing skills:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.kidsmart.org.uk

www.light-bot.com

www.code.org

www.scratch.mit.edu

www.kodugamelab.com



Art/Design & Technology

Linking to our science project we are designing and making shadow puppets and making up puppet shows. In addition, we will also be designing and creating Egyptian crafts such as canopic jars made out of clay.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their artistic skills:

<http://www.artsconnected.org/toolkit/index.html>

<http://www.disney.co.uk/disney-junior/art-attack/>



R.E.



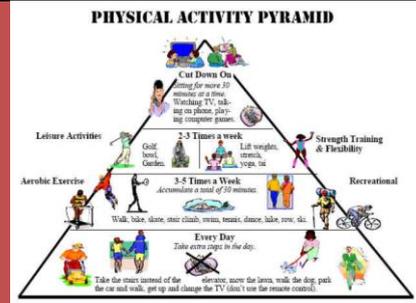
We will be learning about Judaism and the importance of festivals such as Hanukkah and Passover.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to learn more about their topic:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4-11/site/re>



P.E.



We will be taking part in gymnastic activities that promote fitness as well as working in collaboration with a partner. There will be a focus on turning, spinning and twisting, balancing using different apparatus.

Jupiter will do PE on Wednesdays and children should come to school in their PE kits.

Here are some ideas for websites for the children to practise their PE skills:

www.kidsexercise.co.uk



Home Learning

Homework will be handed out each Friday and is due in on the following Wednesday. Your child will receive:

- Maths and reading comprehension homework will be provided alternate Fridays and should be handed in by the following Wednesday.
- Weekly spellings to be tested in class on Fridays.
- Daily reading. By Year 3 many pupils will enjoy reading by themselves. However, it is important that children still read out loud to their parents and discuss the storyline, as this is the best way of checking that children understand what they are reading and that they are pronouncing words correctly. All children will have the opportunity to bring books home and will have the use of our school library.