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An Oxford Diocesan
School

Headteacher
Mrs J Barnett BA (QTS)

11th September 2023

Dear Parent,

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are delighted to welcome you back to the new academic year. This year promises to be a journey filled with learning, growth, and wonderful experiences. This letter includes information about the curriculum areas that the children in Year 3 will be covering this term and information that you will require.

We have many exciting topics in Year 3 and this term our new topics are 'The Ancient Egyptians' and 'Brilliant Beasts.' We will be learning about life in Ancient Egyptian times, different Pharaohs and creating our own artwork. After half term, many of our lessons will be linked to animals. For example, writing a recount story about animals and learning about types of animal skeletons in Science

Our timetable this term will have an English and Mathematics focus during the morning, as in previous years, with foundation subjects taking place during our afternoon lessons. In addition, throughout the year your child will take part in curriculum days that enhance their learning experience. This term Year 3 will be involved in an Egyptian Day.

In **English** we will begin by focusing on 'The Beasties' by Jenny Nimmo as our text and will write our very own short story in a similar style. We will also be using 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett to develop our recount writing skills. After half term, we will focus on instructional writing and persuasive letters.

In **Mathematics** we will be working through National Curriculum objectives for Year 3, beginning with a focus on number and place value, moving onto the mental and written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The objectives can be found on the school website.

Other topics we will be studying are:

Science	Animals including humans
History	Ancient Egyptians
Computing	Presentations and Word Processing
Art	Egyptian Landscapes
D.T.	Textiles
Games	Handball and Netball
P.E.	Swimming
R.E.	Does taking bread and wine show someone is a Christian? Is light a good symbol for celebration?
Music	Let your Spirit Fly and 3 Little Birds
French	J'apprends le français Les Instruments
PSHE	Being Me in My World Celebrating Difference



Homework

This year homework will be set and submitted on Seesaw. In Year 3, the children will receive the following homework:

English homework will be set on a Monday and is expected to be returned by Wednesday;

Mathematics homework will be set on a Wednesday and is due in on the Friday.

When required, Foundation Subject homework will be due in one week from being handed out and may be given out once a half term.

Spellings will also be set on Seesaw and tested in class. These will be given to the children on a Thursday with a test the following Thursday.

We have developed our spelling lists to correspond with the spelling rules the children are being taught in their English lessons. These spellings are split into 3 groups; Must, Should and Could. All children are expected to learn the 'Must' spellings; they will be directed by the class teacher to learn the 'Should' or 'Could' spellings if they are ready, although all children can choose to challenge themselves by learning these should they wish. Any children who find spelling particularly difficult will be given words linked to their phonic phases.

Children will continue working on their Numeracy Passport objectives, which will include weekly times tables tests. They will be expected to practise their passport objectives and times tables regularly at home. The children should use their login for Times Table Rockstars to support their fluency and accuracy in a fun way.

This year, we continue to focus on reading (especially reading for enjoyment) and are looking forward to finding out about what exciting books the children enjoy. Please make sure that the children have a book they are reading at home and can bring to school each day. Continue to listen to your child read daily, as not only will this aid their learning considerably, it will also increase their enjoyment of reading. Discuss the books that they are reading and encourage your child to choose more challenging literature in order to continue their development. We are using paper based reading diaries to record daily reading. It is vital that these are in school every day.

Our carefully selected suggested reads for Year 3 are as follows:

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| 1. The Abominables by Eve Ibbotson | 8. Bill's New Frock by Anne Fine |
| 2. Evie and the Animals by Matt Haig | 9. The Queen's Nose by Dick King Smith |
| 3. Toto by Michael Morpurgo | 10. Falcon's Malteser by Anthony Horowitz |
| 4. Going Solo by Roald Dahl | 11. The Wonder by Faye Hansen |
| 5. Lucy Willow by Sally Gardner | 12. Ottoline and the Yellow Cat by Chris Riddell |
| 6. The Sheep-Pig by Dick King Smith | |
| 7. Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne | |

PE and Games

The children will need a full, named PE kit (T-Shirt, shorts, socks, plimsolls/trainers). Both classes will have Games and PE on Wednesday afternoons. Children will be expected to bring in and leave their kits in school for the entire half term. As a reminder, they will be required to wear trainers for outdoor PE.

Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Personal social and emotional development (PSED) forms a key part of our curriculum each term. Teaching personal development is vital in many ways. It helps children develop a positive sense of themselves, independence, respect for others, social skills, emotional well-being and a positive disposition to learning.

This term your child will be taught about their place in the world and recognising and celebrating differences as part of our PSHE curriculum. They will also be introduced to, and be asked to reflect on, the following key values through our weekly assembly programme: Trust, Love, Dignity, Generosity, Thankfulness, Joy, Peace, Community and Wisdom. In addition, across the Autumn Term, children will learn about the importance of helping others through our involvement with One Can Trust and our Harvest celebrations and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and our Remembrance Service.

In Autumn 2, all children will take place in 'Anti-Bullying week', a week dedicated to sending a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools and communities. Children are also taught that it is important to tell someone if they are being bullied and how to get help if they find themselves in that position. We also hold our annual, 'Walk To School Week' to help our pupils start to recognise both the health benefits of walking to school and the environmental benefit of having fewer cars on the road.

Pupils in Year 3 will also have the opportunity to develop their self-confidence and public speaking skills this term as they take part in Carol Concert. We are really looking forward to this special event as we are sure are you.

Finally, across the school, pupils are given the opportunity to perform key roles to both develop their leadership skills and sense of responsibility or teamwork. These responsibilities increase as children progress through the different year groups. In Year 3, pupils take on the following whole school roles:

- Playground Monitors
- Collective Worship Ambassadors
- School Council - as voted for by their peers

Please keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter as that will provide further details of the above events and also detail additional opportunities that the children at SMAS experience as part of our PSED Curriculum and school vision.

If you ever wish to discuss anything about your child, please make an appointment through the office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C Fraser and Miss M Page
Y3 Class Teachers