



Welcome to Year 3

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 3, and provide you with some useful information about the year ahead.

Year 3 Staff

Miss G Davies (class teacher in Bumblebee class)
Miss E Walker (class teacher in Dragonfly class and head of middle school)
Mrs J Kelleher (class teacher covering PPA for Miss Davies)

Mr R Wise (class teacher covering PPA for Miss Walker)
Mrs. C McPhee (teaching assistant -Bumblebee class)
Mrs. N Town (teaching assistant -Dragonfly class)

Year 3 Expectations

Having now entered Key Stage 2 the children will be treated as 'juniors' and as such will be expected to become far more independent learners. We expect them to be responsible for their belongings, making sure that they have the right equipment for their daily tasks. We respect the children in our classes and expect them to show respect to all the adults and their peers that they encounter. Politeness costs nothing! ☺

All we ask is that the children try their very best.

Year 3 Curriculum

Details of the curriculum that your child will be studying during the academic year can be found on the school website. To locate this information simply go to the 'Information for parents' section and then click on 'Curriculum'. In this section you will find details about our topics and the areas that the children will be studying. This section of the website will be updated prior to the start of each new topic. Terms 1 & 2 have been amended to reflect this. We endeavour to make as many links to our topic in our studies throughout the curriculum and our weekly timetable is flexible, taking into account various visits, celebrations, visiting speakers, etc.

Mathematics will be taught in two sets across the year group. Your child may be moved from one set to the other to accommodate their needs throughout the year.

This academic year we will no longer be dividing the children in Years 3-6 into ability sets for the teaching of English (with the exception of spelling and phonics). We believe it is important to ensure that literacy skills are firmly embedded into other subjects such as science, history and geography which are currently taught in whole class groups. Writing will be taught in mixed ability class groups, by your child's own class teacher, where the work will be differentiated for the varying ability groups within the class. The skills the children acquire can then be more thoroughly reinforced through the writing produced in other subject areas. More cross curricular teaching may also take place where links will be made between literacy and other subjects. For example a literacy unit on adventure story writing may be taught through a history topic or the development of spelling patterns may be explored through writing in science. We hope that the children will understand the importance of showing their best literacy skills in all written tasks and not just in isolated English lessons.

Reading

Reading in the classroom will take place daily through a variety of reading activities. These may take the form of class, group or individual work. We would ask parents to hear their child read regularly (three times a week if possible) and write a comment when they have listened to their child in their reading record book. **We expect the children to have both reading books and reading record books in school every day.** We would like children to change their reading book regularly but this will depend on the size of the book they take home, so long as they are reading a little regularly this is ok. A comment about each child's reading will be written in the contact book by school staff following their reading sessions.

Homework

The children will be set a piece of homework each week, usually on a Thursday to be handed in by the Monday. The work set will be a reinforcement of tasks or topics studied in school. The homework should not take more than half an hour to complete. For further information about the school's homework policy, please see the 'How can I help my child' section on the school website.

Spellings

In term 1 the children will be focusing on phonics work, this will be a suitable phase from the Letters and Sounds scheme matched to the children's ability and taught in ability groups. From term 2 onwards some children may move onto exploring other spelling rules and strategies whilst others might continue to develop their phonetic knowledge. for four 15 minute sessions per week. Spellings may be sent home as part of the weekly homework and the children will be tested on these in school. Further information about spelling and phonics is available on the school website.

Times Tables

Children are expected to practice their times tables at home. Children will be given a specific table / set of tables to practice at home each week. These will be tested in school as part of Mathematics lessons, usually on a Wednesday.

Equipment and Resources

All children are encouraged to be respectful of school resources. We provide basic equipment for all children in the classroom. Children may bring their own pencil cases to use in afternoon sessions, however these must be small enough to fit in their trays, and they must understand that it is their responsibility to take care of it.

P.E

Bumblebee class will have PE on Thursday (Outdoor) and Wednesday (Indoor). Dragonfly class will have PE on Monday (Outdoor) and Tuesday (Indoor). Their PE kit should be in school every day. It is essential that PE kits consist of a coloured house t-shirt, black or navy shorts, plimsols for indoor PE and trainers for outdoor PE. A tracksuit is useful for outdoor PE in colder weather as we will only miss these sessions if the conditions are extreme. **All items should be fully named.** If your child wears earrings these **must** be taken out for PE. Any child, who cannot remove them, will not be allowed to participate in PE sessions.

School Trips

We look forward to enriching the children's learning experience this year through some school trips and are hoping to organise visits related to our topics- more information on these will be given nearer the time. In terms 3 and 4, the children will be swimming at the Stour Centre.

Celebration Assembly

This will take place on a Monday. This is a time when selected children's achievements are awarded each week with special certificates. Also every fortnight a child from each class is chosen as the Citizen of the Week and invited to a tea party with Mr Holditch and Miss Talbot.

Healthy Snacks and Water

Children may bring fruit as a snack for morning break from Monday to Thursday and can bring in a healthy snack (cheese, yoghurt etc) on Friday. Children are allowed **water** to drink in their classrooms. This should be provided in a 'Godinton Water Bottle' (available to purchase from the school office) or a clear bottle, no larger than 500ml which has their name on.

Speaking to School Staff

Children are expected to come into school independently in the morning. First thing in the morning is **not** an ideal time for parents to talk to staff as their priority must be supervising the children coming safely into the classroom. We escort the children onto the playground in the afternoon unless we are running an after school club, this is a good time to catch us and many minor problems can be sorted out at this time. For more important matters, an appointment can be made via the school office. We hope that you find this information helpful and we look forward to working with you and your child over the coming year.