

Year 3 Squirrels Newsletter Term 3 2017-18



Dear Parents and Carers,
Happy New Year! Welcome back and I hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday.

This term we have a BA Hons student joining us next week up until Easter. Her name is Miss Hicks and she is in her 3rd and final year of her degree and this will be her final placement. She has been with us this week to get to know the school and class. After this time, the teaching will be mixed between the two of us, with Miss Hicks eventually taking a larger role. Although my teaching time will be reduced in order for Miss Hicks to gain the necessary experience, I will still have an input regarding planning and teaching expectations.

Having Miss Hicks with us will also give me a great opportunity to work closely one to one and with small groups of children out of class on areas of development and also on ways to challenge further, whilst still continuing with the curriculum.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 4th January - Start of term 3

Friday 9th February - Interim reports out

Friday 9th February - End of term 3

Year 3 Curriculum Content

Literacy: We are going to start off the term by looking at poetry. The children will read and analyse various poems that create images, such as 'Dad fell in the Pond' and 'The Bug Chant' before performing these poems to the class and writing their own versions. We will then be writing our own letters to a much-loved author and illustrator, Quentin Blake, whilst focussing on the features and purpose of letter writing.

Numeracy: This term will focus mainly on fractions. The children will work towards being able to identify fractions, to recognise fractions of differing amounts and to solve problems involving fractions. We will be learning fractions in a practical way by using lots of resources and pictorial examples.

Science: In science we are going to be looking at rocks and soils. In this unit, children will compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. They will be able to describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.

Humanities: Our Romans topic was a huge success and the children thoroughly enjoyed each lesson, especially our trip. This term our topic is just as exciting, as we will be learning about the 'Extreme Earth'. This will involve looking at volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and tornadoes. We will be exploring how they are created and the impact these have on communities and the various landscapes.

RE: We will be continuing with Christianity. In particular, Jesus and his teachings, the unforgiving servant and parables of the kingdom. We will be able to retell religious stories, discuss meanings to the different stories and use this to make links between beliefs/practices and other people's lives.

Art: In art, we will be focusing on the artist Jim Dine. We will be looking at pop art, the use of oil and chalk pastels and colour mixing before making our own masterpieces.

Music: This term's music topic is 'The class orchestra'. We will learn how songs are accompanied and explore how to make our own accompaniment by exploring rhythmic patterns and melodic phrases. Towards the end of the term, we will use what we have practised in a whole class performance.

Computing: The term will start off with an e-safety lesson before moving onto a topic called 'We are Opinion Pollsters' where we will be collecting and analysing data. The children will look at the purpose of surveys, create their own about a particular topic and input their data into graphs.

PE:

Indoor: **Friday**

Outdoor: **Tuesday** (With Mr Packer for this term).

Children will need to make sure that they have their P.E kits in school every week. This consists of a plain white or red t-shirt with the school logo, plain black shorts, plimsolls and trainers. Please mark every item with your child's name. Long hair will need to be tied back and ear-rings need to be removed or covered on P.E days.

French: This unit 'On fait la fête (celebrations)' is based on being able to tell each other their achievements in games and activities. They will also learn the names of the months, as well as a birthday greeting.

PHSCE: This term our focus is 'Going for goals' where children will be able to recognise their worth as individuals by identifying positive things about themselves and their achievements, seeing their mistakes, making amends and setting personal goals. We will also be looking at how to resolve differences by looking at alternatives, making decisions and explaining choices.

Home Learning:

Just a reminder: Homework and spellings will be set every **Thursday**, to be handed in or tested on **Tuesday**. Please ensure the full spelling task is complete, including the sentences at the bottom. This is important for your child to be able to apply the spellings learnt.

Kind Regards,

Miss Fuller and Miss Gunner