



SQUIRRELS' NEWSLETTER TERM 1 2025-26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3.

We hope you have all enjoyed a fantastic summer and that everyone is feeling refreshed and ready for a brand new year. We look forward to hearing all about your summer adventures. We are very pleased to be back in the classroom and we are all looking forward to a great school year. We have so many things ahead of us to get excited about!

We are very excited to be sharing the class and have really enjoyed revamping the classroom over the summer. Mrs Blunt will be teaching the class on a Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Fulton will take over on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We are also supported by Miss Raval across the whole week and Mrs Coles will be supporting small groups at the start of the week.

If you do have any questions, comments or concerns then please do not hesitate to come and speak to either of us before school or at the end of the day. You can also email us at sarah.blunt@bad.kent.sch.uk or claudine.fulton@bad.kent.sch.uk

A new member of our class is Sid the Squirrel. He will be sent home with our Super Squirrel winner each week and we would like the children to add a page to his diary of adventure. Thank you for your support with this.

We are all looking forward to a great year.

Mrs Fulton, Mrs Blunt, Miss Raval and Mrs Coles

Learning Overview

English - This term has a focus on the world of Roald Dahl. We will be looking at extracts from many of his wonderful stories. The class will be developing their descriptive writing and persuasive language through reading George's Marvellous Medicine and the children will write a newspaper report after studying Fantastic Mr Fox. Later on in the term, we will be looking at a visual text called Flotsam.

Maths - We will be beginning the term with learning about number. We will be looking at place value, reading, writing and ordering numbers to 1000. We will be starting to work on times tables revising the 2, 5 and 10 times tables through games.

Science - In Science, the children will have the opportunity to look at lots of different areas including plants, food chains, rocks and soils, forces and earth and space.

R.E - Our topic for this term will be 'What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today?' This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from different religious and spiritual ways of life about what Christians do at home, in church and in the wider community and why these things are important to them.

P.E - This term the children will have PE on a **Thursday** and **Friday**. These sessions will aim to develop their understanding of different sports and the skills required to improve (e.g. hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, agility). The children will also be trying out a new gymnastic scheme which we are very excited about.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for these sessions especially as the weather starts to turn cooler.

Art - We will be focusing on drawing techniques, in particular shading techniques using pencils before completing some observational work linked to our Design and Technology topic on packaging with an Italian theme!

History/Geography - We are focusing on Geography this term and learning about 'Italy Today'. We will be improving our atlas skills, examining both the physical and human geography of the country as well as looking at culture and traditions in Italy.

PSHE - This term we will be focusing on 'How can we be a good friend?' We will be thinking about the things that make us similar and different and how we can make sure that everyone in our class feels included.

Music - This term we will be learning about 'Timbre'. We will be exploring body percussion and different rhythms we can create using parts of our bodies. The children will begin to read and use musical notation before composing their own pieces to perform to the class.

French - Our first topic in French is 'Moi' (All about me!). Throughout this, the children will listen attentively to spoken language and will begin to show an understanding by joining in and responding. We will explore patterns and sounds of language through songs and link the spelling, sounds and meaning of words.

Computing - The term will start off with an e-safety lesson on writing good e-mails. Afterwards, our topic is 'We are Communicators' which explores the different ways we communicate using computers and the internet. The children will plan and write their own emails using our Purple Mash site.

Home Learning

Consolidating skills learned in school at home is really important. We try not to overburden the children with too much homework as we know how hard they work in school every day!

Spellings

Each week the children will be given spellings on a **Thursday** that need to be practised and learnt for a test the following **Tuesday**. Spellings that the children learn will be based upon learning in class as well as from the Y3 and Y4 spelling expectations. They are asked to practise each word a number of times using a variety of spelling techniques they have been taught in class. This makes up a significant part of their home learning and we do expect that the children make time to practise and learn their spellings each week. Spellings will be sent out from the 18th September.

Times Table Tasks

Alongside spellings, the children will be set an additional, shorter task that will be related to learning their multiplication tables and corresponding division facts. These will be based on each pupil's individual need following work in school on multiplication and division facts and through a website/ app called 'MathShed' that will be familiar with from last year. The children have log-ins for this in their reading record book. Once they have completed the set assignment, they are then able to practise other times tables. A good place to start is 2, 5 and 10 times tables which they learnt in Year 2. In Year Three, we review these, then begin learning the 3, 4, 6, 8 and 11 times tables. Some of the children were using this website regularly at home last year and it has made a real difference to their speed and accuracy of recall of number facts.

Reading

Regular reading should still be taking place at home. The children can read a combination of their school reading books as well as their own books from home, the class book corner or the library. Please encourage daily reading of 15 minutes, which should be recorded in their home school record book. Reading books will be changed on a **Monday** and a **Friday**.

Additional (optional) Learning

Any additional reading (or listening to) of Roald Dahl's books would be fantastic. There are so many good ones to choose from and there really is nothing better than snuggling up with a great book. My personal favourites are The Witches and The BFG.

These tasks are all linked to our Geography topic on Italy. They are optional and do not need to be completed but will broaden their understanding of the topic.

1. Find out about famous Italian artists. Choose a piece that you particularly like and explain to a grown up why you have chosen this.
2. Find out about different Italian foods and try them. Which did you like? Why?
3. Find out about famous Italian landmarks. There are many to choose from. Who created them? Why are they there? How were they used in the past? How are they used now? You could even try making a model of one.
4. Find out some facts about Italy. How many people live there? What languages are spoken? What is the currency?
5. Create some artwork using dried pasta. There are so many shapes of pasta you can use.
6. Learn about Roman numerals and how these are used today.
7. Make a pizza from scratch. What toppings will you choose?
8. Find out about Leonardo Da Vinci, a very famous Italian. What did he do? What did he create/ invent?