



SQUIRRELS' NEWSLETTER TERM 3 2025-26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a fantastic Christmas and enjoyed a wonderful time together with family and friends.

The Year 3 teaching team remains the same with Mrs Blunt teaching on a Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Fulton teaching on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Raval is with the class all week and Miss Patterson will be with us in the mornings until the end of January when she will be leaving to set off on her Australia travels! We wish her a wonderful time! Miss Waters continues to volunteer in the class on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Sid the Squirrel has continued to enjoy visiting our Super Squirrel winners during Term 2. He has enjoyed his Christmas holiday break with Mrs Blunt and is eager to visit other children this term. Thank you for your continued support with this.

This term we are introducing independent projects for the children to complete at school during free time as an extension to work. This is to develop free thinking and presentation of their own ideas. We have asked the children to choose a subject of interest (eg Marvel heroes, football teams, pets, fossils, space etc.) The project is lasting until half term and will consist of writing, art work, diagrams, research etc. If they wish to bring in research or resources from home they are welcome but this is not essential (anything brought in from home must be named and kept safely in school bags).

If you do have any questions, comments or concerns then please do not hesitate to come and speak to me either 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

We are all looking forward to a great new term.

Mrs Fulton, Mrs Blunt, Miss Raval, Miss Patterson and Miss Waters.

Learning Overview

English - This term we are going to be looking at two different genres- poetry and a humorous text called "The Diary of a Killer Cat". The children will be reading, performing and writing their own poems for a class anthology. They will be looking at diary writing and doing some drama to the class text.

Maths - We will be beginning the term with problem solving before beginning a unit on telling the time and measuring time. We will then move onto multiplication using the grid method.

Science - This term the areas of Science we will be looking at include the characteristics of living things, balanced diets, sound, light, magnets and the Moon.

R.E - Our focus this term will be 'Why is the Bible important for Christians today?' This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from different religious and spiritual ways of life about Christian scriptures - the Bible - exploring questions about what the Bible says and how the bible is used and valued in Christian communities today.

P.E - This term the children will have PE on a **Thursday** and **Friday** afternoon. This term we will be learning to play hockey, completing our Wake and Shake routines ready to take part in our internal competition and then will move onto large apparatus within gymnastics. as well as practising our key steps gymnastics. *Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for these sessions especially as the weather has now turned much colder and this could include gloves. Children may wear gum shields or shine pads in hockey if they wish.*

Art- In Art this term we will be experimenting with collage techniques before creating our own collage cat pieces.

DT- In DT the children will be looking at pencil cases before sewing their own pencil case.

Geography - 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.

PSHE - This term we will be focusing on 'What are families like?' We will be thinking about who are in our families and how families mark special occasions.

Music - This term our music topic is 'Rhythm'. We will learn how songs use rhythm to add interest and will begin to use musical notation. The class will be composing rhythms of their own and will perform these to the class.

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.

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.

Home Learning for Term 3

As a whole school, we are keen for the children to develop their independence. In Year 3, we are keen for the children to

- *Stick in their own spellings for home learning
 - *Bring their reading record book into school every day
 - *Go to the toilet during break times and lunch times
- We thank you for your help and support with this.

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 I do expect that the children make time to practise and learn their spellings each week.

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'. 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. In Year Three, we have reviewed 2, 5 and 10 timestables and the children have begun learning the 3, 4, 6, and 8 times tables. Some of the children were using this website regularly at home last term 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. We will continue to change reading books on a **Tuesday** and a **Friday** so please make sure that their books and reading record books are in school, particularly on these days.

Additional (optional) Learning

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

1. Find out about Mount Vesuvius in Italy. We looked at this in Term 1 for our Geography topic but it would be good to find out more about it. Can you create a fact-file or poster about this volcano?
2. Colour in a drawing or create a playdough version of the Earth's layers.
3. Make a model of a volcano.
4. Put yourself in the shoes of a natural disaster victim. Describe your thoughts and feelings.
5. Make an A-Z list of words to do with natural disasters.
6. Find out about the Richter Scale and how it is used.
7. Find out about earthquakes, volcanic eruptions or tsunamis that have occurred in the last five years.



Year 3 Term 3 Weekly Spelling Lists

Term 3 Week 1 Spellings - Set 8.1.26 Tested 13.1.26

Group 1 : my, her, what, into, back

Group 2 : camel, tunnel, squirrel, travel, towel, tinsel, label, panel, hotel, angel

Group 3: Eight, eighth, Fairness, kindness, Loveliness, nastiness, Fitness, foolishness, Tidiness, happiness

Phonics group 2 - with, but, went, then, when, can

Phonics group 3 - went, there, their, they're, when, they, because, which, whether, where

Term 3 Week 2 Spellings - Set 15.1.26 Tested 20.1.26

Group 1 : from, children, him, there, have

Group 2 : metal, pedal, capital, hospital, animal, medal, total, final, loyal, royal

Group 3: telephone, telegraph, telescope, television, subsoil, submarine, subway, subterranean, submerge, subordinate

Phonics group 2 - pie, tried, cried, time, like, smile,

Phonics group 3 - tie, pie, fried, tried, cried, time, like, smile, shine, prize

Term 3 Week 3 Spellings - Set 22.1.26 Tested 27.1.26

Group 1 : went, be, like, Mr, get

Group 2 : cry, fly, dry, try, reply, July, joy, fry, spy, sky

Group 3: experience, experiment, extreme, famous, favourite, February, fruit, forward, grammar, group

Phonics group 2 - night, bright, light, sight, tight, fight

Phonics group 3 - night, knight, bright, flashlight, sight, tight, fright, tonight, midnight, plight

Term 3 Week 4 Spellings - Set 29.1.26 Tested 3.2.26

Group 1 : just, now, came, some, then

Group 2 : flies, tries, cries, dries, replies, copies, babies, carries, marries, spies

Group 3: chef, special, brochure, sure, sugar, mission, machine, chalet, parachute, delicious

Phonics group 2 - burst, turn, purple, dirt, girl, first

Phonics group 3 - burst, nurse, turn, purple, burn, dirt, skirt, girl, first, stir

Term 3 Week 5 Spellings - Set 5.2.26 Tested 10.2.26

Group 1 : go, them, when, got, about

Group 2: copied, cried, replied, tried, dried, spied, carried, married, fried, died

Group 3: carelessly, carefulness, harmlessly, usefulness, helplessly, thankfully, hopefully, painfully, mercilessly, angrily

Phonics group 2 - herb, fern, her, finger, river, flower

Phonics group 3 - herb, fern, herd, finger, river, flower, verb, adverb, term, perfect