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## **YEAR 3 CLASS NEWSLETTER**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely summer break in the sunshine. We are really looking forward to working with our new class in Year 3, and we have a busy and exciting year planned!

As you may already know, I will be the class teacher. However, Mrs Jill Delacovias will be teaching science and English on Thursday mornings while I have some PPA time, We also have two wonderful teaching assistants - Mrs Charlotte Marshall (mornings) and Mrs Vitti Robinson (afternoons).

Mr Andrew Wright from the County Music Service provides weekly music lessons, which include guitar tuition. The lessons are of one hour's duration, and the children will be issued with guitars in due course. In addition, Mr Read teaches the class chess for one hour per fortnight.

I have had a handover meeting with Mrs Axford, as well as teaching the class for a morning, and I am confident that the children will cope very well with their new environment. Although they are entering a new 'key stage' they should find the move very similar to starting previous 'new classes'.

### **Arrival**

Children can arrive in the classroom from 8.35am, when the school doors are opened, and must be here by 8.50am, when the register is taken. There will be 'early work' for children to complete which will be written on the classroom board.

### **Pencil cases**

All pupils in 'Key Stage 2' will be given a clear plastic pencil case, labelled with their name, which will contain a handwriting pen and a pencil. They will also have access to all the other equipment they will need. Please do not send in extra pencil cases or stationery.

## Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing a full school uniform every day. It is important that pupils wear appropriate shoes in order to move around the school and playground safely and comfortably. We aim to get out in the fresh air every day so please make sure they bring a waterproof coat and suitable shoes, whatever the weather. A coat should be the only item placed on your child's peg.

## PE / Lockers

All Key stage 2 pupils have their own locker. They should keep their PE kits and any other bags they may need to bring to school (for example, book bags or clothing for an afterschool club) in their locker. **PE kit must be in school every day**, containing shorts, T-shirt and outdoor trainers. Long joggers and sweatshirts may be worn for outdoor PE in cold weather. No jewellery should be worn for PE and long hair must be tied back. Indoor PE is usually in bare feet. Please ensure all PE kit (and other uniform) is clearly labelled with your child's name.

## Homework

All pupils in Key stage 2 will be given a homework book. Please make sure your child completes all written homework within this book (unless for some reason they are specifically requested not to.) If you would like to communicate with me about your child's homework please do so in this book. Homework will either be discussed in class or marked by myself, or one of my teaching assistants. Homework will be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Wednesday. It is very important that all homework books are in school on these days. In order to keep the books neat and tidy we will be asking all pupils to cover their books as part of their first homework activity. Homework may be linked to class maths, English or topic work, and we will continue to set some 'computer' homework using the 'My Maths' website.

In addition to the set pieces of homework it is expected that Year 3 pupils will be reading regularly at home and practising key spellings and times tables. We have a 'class library' with a wide range of reading material and the children are encouraged to choose books independently. This may initially lead to children choosing books of a slightly inappropriate 'level' for their reading ability, but they soon learn which kind of books are suitable for them. If you are concerned to begin with, please let us know, or come in and choose a book with your child. The children will be reading in guided reading groups and sharing class books but the curriculum allows very little room for hearing individual readers. The more you are able to read with your child at home the better! This can be reading to your child, as well as hearing your child read, or discussing a book that they are reading.

## **Food and drink**

Lunchboxes must be kept in our trolley in the hall. If your child brings a packed lunch to school they should place it on the trolley in the hall first thing in the morning. In Year 3 upwards, the school does not provide snacks. However, we would encourage you to provide a healthy snack for break time which must be kept in their classroom drawer. Children are also encouraged to keep a named bottle of still water in the classroom.

## **Class topics, books and activities.**

Our first class topic for the autumn term will be 'Dragons', followed by a topic on 'Vikings and Saxons' after half term. Please see the attached topic overview for the key areas of learning.

Much of our English work will be based around 'Dragon literature', especially Cressida Cowell's 'How to Train your Dragon'. The children will each have their own class copy which we will read together during English lessons.

Finally, please do pop in and introduce yourself when you can. Although children in the 'upper school' are encouraged to be independent I am very happy for you to accompany your children along the corridor, especially during the settling-in period, and I do appreciate you saying hello and letting me know who your child belongs to! And, I hope it goes without saying, but if you have any worries please come and talk to me.

Yours sincerely

Joe Cooke