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YEAR 3 CLASS NEWSLETTER

Friday 3rd September 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to year 3. We hope you all had a healthy and happy summer break, and we are looking forward to working with our new class this year. Unfortunately, Mr Cooke's return to school has been slightly delayed as he completes his recovery from orthopaedic surgery in July. However, Mrs D has stepped in to cover, and she will introduce the children to year 3 during the first few days..

Once Mr Cooke is back, he will be teaching in class on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday morning and Friday each week, while Mrs D will teach on Wednesday and Thursday morning. We will be supported by our fantastic teaching assistants: Mrs Didcock and Mrs Rooma. So many familiar faces should make the children feel more at ease with the move to key stage 2. If you would like to contact us then please do so using these emails:

joe.cooke@cumnorschool.co.uk or jill.delacovias@cumnorschool.co.uk.

Alternatively, pop to the classroom door and say hello - it is always nice to meet new parents face to face!

Arrival

Children should enter school through the outside classroom door which opens onto the front playing field. They can arrive from 8:35am and must be there by 8:50am when the register is taken. They should enter the classroom independently and use the hand sanitiser provided. There will be 'early work' for children to complete which will be written on the classroom board.

Equipment and personal belongings

All pupils in Key Stage 2 will be given a large clear plastic pencil case labelled with their name. They will be given a handwriting pen, a purple editing pen and a pencil to keep in their pencil case as well as other items such as a ruler, rubber, a sharpener and colouring pens/pencils. These items will be replaced if they run out but it is important that pupils take responsibility for looking after their pencil case kit. Their pencil cases will be kept in their trays along with their work books. We will also provide headphones for use with our chrome books and dictionaries but they are welcome to bring their own dictionary/ thesaurus if they wish. We do have class dictionaries and thesauruses available to use.

We have allocated pegs and lockers for each class in separate areas. Every child will have a peg on which to place their coat. If they bring in a lunchbox, this will need to be kept in their locker, along with PE kit. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing sensible,

comfortable shoes (or trainers) and clothing in which they can run around. They should also have a coat with them every single day as we will be going outside as much as possible. Healthy snacks for break times may be kept in their classroom tray. Children must bring a named bottle of still water into the classroom. The water fountains will not be in use this term. It would also be a good idea to provide your child with a small packet of tissues to be kept in their pencil case. The children will be washing their hands regularly throughout the day and always before eating.

Homework

This year, all homework will be set on Google Classroom. Pupils will be given a homework book in which they can do their work at home but this does not need to be brought into school. Children should ensure they 'turn in' and attach evidence of their homework on the google classroom. We will provide online feedback. Homework will be set on a Friday and should be completed by the following Thursday. Homework may be linked to maths, English or topic work. 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.

Books

In year three, we largely move away from scheme books and the idea of progressing from one reading book to another, and try to instill a culture of 'reading for pleasure'. Of course, there may be children who still need the structure of scheme books, and having Mrs D and Mrs Didcock moving up with the children will make this assessment of individual needs much easier.

In the classroom we have a 'class library' which contains a wide range of books, and children are encouraged to choose appropriate books independently. They are expected to take one book home each day to read that evening, bringing it to school with them the following morning. Children may also bring in books from home to read in school. It is inevitable that there will be hiccups to begin with, with children choosing books which may be too difficult for them, and if this is the case feel free to let us know or give the children some help and advice on what might be more appropriate.

The most important thing is that your child has something they WANT to read and that they view reading as entertainment rather than a chore. There is nothing wrong with children reading comic books or 'easy' books sometimes if they enjoy reading them. We all learn better when we are doing something we enjoy, so do not feel they have to be reading Tolstoy just yet! Ideally, children should read at home each evening, and any support you can give your child with this is very much appreciated. This can be a mix of letting them read silently, hearing them read and just sharing a book together and discussing 'what it's about'.

Much of our English work this term will be based around Cressida Cowell's 'How to Train your Dragon'. We will read this together in class, each child having access to a copy of the book, led beautifully by David Tennant.

While on the subject of books, Mrs D will be asking children to bring in a favourite book from home on Monday. They are going to copy the front cover illustration to personalise their locker door, so if they can choose a book with a striking front cover, all the better!

Topic and Trip

Our first class topic for the autumn term will be 'Dragons!' which the children always seem to enjoy! Please see the attached topic overview for the key areas of learning. After half term, the topic is 'Saxons and Vikings', and we are intending to walk to Hill End for a 'Saxon and Viking Day'. More information to follow in the coming weeks, but do not worry - you don't have to provide costumes...

Please do get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Joe Cooke and Mrs Jill Delacovias.