

Lower KS2 Half Term Curriculum Overview

Year 3 2015/2016 - Spring 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays. I sincerely hope that you all had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and would like to wish you a happy and healthy new year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the kind gifts, cards and messages. I was once again overwhelmed by your generosity. For this half term I am pleased to provide you with information about what the children will be covering in the different subjects. We are continuing with the new curriculum this academic year. If you wish to know more about it visit the DfE website, the school website or speak with me.

Catholic life of the school

This half term we will be introducing again our class masses. Each Tuesday two classes will join with the parish to celebrate Mass at 9am. Year 6 and Reception, Year 5 and Year 1, Year 3 and Year 2 and Year 4 will join the parish. Please look out for dates on the weekly newsletter or on the school website.

Each day the children will take part in collective worship. Whole school collective worship begins our week every Monday, followed by class collective worships led by the teachers and children on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On Fridays there is a key stage assembly.

The Wednesday Word is available for every child to take home every Wednesday. Please look out for this and share it with your child. Additional copies are available at the school office.

Also this term the children will be involved in charity work during Lent. We will be taking part in fundraising activities and raising awareness of local charities through the Good Shepherd Appeal for Nugent Care. We will also be raising funds for 'Mission Together' which supports international charity work.

Healthy School Initiative

As part of the healthy school initiative, we will continue to encourage the children to be active at playtimes. Children will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day; therefore it is important that the children have their bottles in everyday! It makes it easier for the children if the bottles have a sports top, as it would prevent any unnecessary spillage.

Healthy snack days will continue to be Monday to Friday and the children will be given the opportunity to eat their snacks during morning playtimes.

Information and dates to remember:

Fri 8 Jan - Bishop Tom visits the school
Tues 9 Feb - Parents' evening 3.30-6pm
(school closes at 3pm)
Wed 10 Feb - Ash Wednesday Mass
Thur 11 Feb - Parents' evening 5.30-8pm
Fri 12 Feb - End of half term

Homework information

- **English homework** will be given out on a Friday and is to be handed in the following Tuesday.

- **Spellings** will be given out on a Tuesday and tested the following Monday, in addition to a focus on the children embedding their spellings into their written work and working in their Spelling Logs.

- **Maths homework** will be given out on a Tuesday and is to be handed in on Friday of the same week.

- **Reading** Each child should read for a minimum of 15 minutes per night and complete their reading records.

Concerns and messages

If you have any concerns or problems, please do not hesitate to come in and see me at the end of the school day.

Any messages in the morning must be left with a Teaching Assistant on the Junior gate and they will be passed directly to me that morning.

Year 3
General Class
Information

Big Maths

The children will continue to complete a weekly 'Big Maths' assessment and will be assessed at the end of the half term on their progress.

Each child will continue to keep their Big Maths files in their book bags so that they can share their assessments with you and work on the types of questions that they find more challenging. The children will continue to split into smaller groups and work with a Big Maths teacher once a week.

Please encourage your child to use their Maths skills at every opportunity.

Remember we are going for green!

Reading

In line with our school policy the children will develop their reading in class throughout the week through shared reading and guided reading sessions and I shall be monitoring their reading progress carefully each week with my own records.

The reading records are for parents to record your child's reading at home. We ask all our children to read for 15 minutes each night. Although I will be keeping my own record of your child's reading progress it would be really helpful if you could make comments in your child's reading record book each time they read, to let me know how they have coped with a book at home. Our class reader for this half term is 'The Chronicles of Narnia'.

Home reading records are checked and once a week their home reading is acknowledged and a target will be highlighted in the book.

If your child reads any other reading material as well as their reading book from school please also make a note of it in their reading record. The home reading record is also a good way to make contact with me if you wish to send me a message and cannot get into school.

This year as part of our new 3 year Improvement Plan, we are particularly focusing on 'Reading'. As well as our reading activities in class, we ask that in addition to hearing your child read, you share books and read to them and explore the pleasure of reading with your child.

The school continues to run an early doors reading club (£2) 8am - 8:45am each morning. Open to all!

Grammar Hammer

The children will continue to complete a weekly 'Grammar Hammer' assessment and will be assessed at the end of the half term on their progress.

Each child will continue to keep their SPAG folders (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) in their book bags so that they can share their assessments with you and work on the types of questions that they find more challenging. The children will be focusing on one grammar aspect each week.

Please encourage your child to use their folders to practise different areas of grammar at every opportunity.

RE - Spring term topics**Journeys**

The children will learn about the Christian family's journey with Jesus through the Church year.

Listening and Sharing

This topic will allow the children to explore how Jesus gives himself to us in a special way. They will learn about listening to the Word of God and sharing in Holy Communion.

Giving All

The children will learn about Lent as a time to remember Jesus' total giving. They will also investigate how they give themselves.

Science - Rocks

- Compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties.
- Describe in simple terms how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock.
- Recognise that soils are made from rocks and organic matter.
- Explore different soils and identify similarities and differences between them.
- Work scientifically by observing rocks and exploring how and why they might have changed over time.
- Investigate what happens when rocks are rubbed together or what changes occur when they are in water.

English**Reading**

- Continue to listen to and discuss a range of fiction, non fiction and reference books.
- Use dictionaries to check the meaning of words.
- Prepare poems to read aloud and to perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone, volume and action.
- Discuss words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination.
- Recognise some different forms of poetry.
- Understand what they read, in books they can read independently, by:
 - checking that the text makes sense to them, explaining the meaning of words in context, asking questions to improve their understanding of a text.
 - identifying main ideas from one paragraph. retrieve and record information from non-fiction. participate in discussion about both books.

Writing

- Compose and rehearse sentences orally, building a rich vocabulary and a range of sentence structures.
- Use organisational devices e.g. headings, sub headings.
- Assess effectiveness of their own and the writing of others, and suggest improvements.

Grammar and punctuation

- Vary sentence structure by expressing time and cause using conjunctions.
- Use of past and present tense.
- Revision of apostrophes to mark contracted forms in spelling.
- Headings and sub headings to aid presentation.
- Continue to improve verb to aid interest.
- Experiment with adjectives to aid impact.
- Use paragraphs as a way to group related material.

Spelling

- Spelling 'Read, Write inc' - Units 3 - 5 -
- Prefixes
- Word endings sounding like shun spelt like -sion, sher spelt -sure and cher spelt -ture.

Mathematics**Number - number and place value**

- Count on from 0 in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100.
- Find 10 and 100 more/less than a given number.
- Solve number problems involving multiples and 10 and 100 more/less.

Addition and Subtraction

- Add and subtract numbers mentally - 3 digit number and tens/hundreds.
- Add and subtract numbers with up to 3 digits, using formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction.
- Solve addition and subtraction problems, including missing number problems.

Multiplication and division

- Recall multiplication and division facts for 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10 times tables.
- Recall multiplication facts for 8 times table.

Fractions

- Recognise, find and write fractions of a discrete set of objects.
- Recognise and show, using diagrams, equivalent fractions with small denominators.

Measurement

- Measure, compare, add and subtract volume/capacity (l, ml).
- Add and subtract amounts of money to give change.
- Know the number of seconds in a minute and the number of days in each month, year and leap year.

Geometry - properties of shapes

- Make 3D shapes, recognise them different orientations and describe them.
- Identify right angles and recognise them in turns.

Geography

- Use correct geographical words to describe a place and the events that happen there
- Use maps and atlases appropriately by using contents and indexes
- Describe how volcanoes are created
- Describe how volcanoes have an impact on people's lives
- Locate and name some of the world's most famous volcanoes
- Name a number of countries in the Northern Hemisphere
- Describe how earthquakes are created

PE

This half term the children will be working on their co-ordination through floor movements through:

- Combining side steps with front and reverse pivots
- Skipping with high elbows and high knees.
- Hopscotch: forwards, backwards and alternate feet
- Asking for help when appropriate.
- Trying several times if at first they don't succeed

They will develop these skills through skills based activities, competitive games and ball games.

PSHCE

- Safeguarding elements/e-safety/anti-bullying
- Know about recycling and why it is important
- Know which materials can be recycled and which can't

Topic Title

Angry Earth

History

- Describe events from the past using dates when things happened
- Research a specific event from the past
- Use their 'information finding' skills in writing to help them write about historical information

DT

- Select appropriate recyclable materials to mould their own volcano
- Use appropriate techniques to shape and mould
- Use finishing techniques
- Show their design meets a range of requirements
- Sketch a design and label it
- Make changes to their designs, when and if needed, and explain what they have made better

Computing

- Develop a number of strategies for finding errors in programs
- Build up resilience and strategies for problem solving
- Increase their knowledge and understanding of Scratch
- Recognise a number of common types of bug software

Music

- Listen to and appraise several Reggae songs.
- Learn 'Three Little Birds' (by Bob Marley) and begin to add accompaniments to it
- Create vocal improvisation to add to the song
- Perform song with accompaniments and improvisation added to it
- Listen and appreciate a range of music from around the world