

## Year 3 Spring Term 2024 – Topic Information for Parents

Happy New Year everyone!

Class 7 – Miss Cox  
Class 8 – Mrs Garrett

LSA- Mrs King and Mrs Restell  
LSA- Mrs Mason

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

We have some wonderful rich texts to study, which will drive our reading and writing this term.

We will begin the spring term with a poetry unit called the Hippocrump where the children will design their own mythical creature and write a poem about it.

After this, we have a range of mini writing units which are driven by our topic of the human body and healthy eating. We will be writing the recipe to the soup we will be making in DT and creating a persuasive advert for it.

Our unit in Spring 2 is about looking at a transformation story to unpick how the mood changes and to analyse the techniques the author uses to build a sense of hopelessness and then hope.

When reading with your children, it would be helpful if you could stop and discuss the vocabulary and language that authors use in the books your children are reading and how this effects the mood of the story. Furthermore, you could also ask your child to summarise what they have read, discussing only the main parts of the story and understanding which details can be left out and which should be included. In class, we will continue to develop the above skills alongside the children's ability to answer questions about a text and to use inference as a key skill to understanding the deeper meaning.

### MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

We will begin the term with multiplication and division where the children will learn to solve calculations using the written methods of short division and expanded column multiplication. Following this, we will move onto measure, focussing on length and perimeter, and end with fractions, where we will be learning about unit and non-unit fractions and how to count in fractions.

#### **Tables Challenge**

The children need to learn their tables – both multiplication and division facts. In Year 3, the focus will be on 2s, 5s, 10s, 3s, 4s, 6s and 8s. Please help your child learn their tables at home. They will be tested weekly in class on a Friday.

Please ensure you are using Times Tables Rockstars to regularly practice!

Some other good websites to practise times tables include:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/mental-maths-train>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/daily10>

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

#### **Geography**

In the second half of the spring term, we will be undertaking a local study of Overton which will involve looking at maps of Overton and identifying its human and physical features.

#### **Science**

We will begin the term with our topic on The Human Body where we will be exploring skeletons and muscles and considering how we can stay healthy. Part of this unit will involve dissecting an animal's pluck to help us understand more about our vital organs.

Our second science unit is light. During this unit we will carry out investigations to explore reflections and shadows.

#### **RE**

Firstly, the children will discuss the concept of protection. They will learn to describe how *protection* is expressed by Hindus in the festival of Raksha Bandhan. In the next unit, we will explore the concept of rituals and understand the importance of Eucharist to Christians

#### **Computing**

This unit is all about ensuring the children possess core skills with word processing, spreadsheet and presentation apps.

The following unit will see the children master the art of using a keyboard and short cuts with a series of fun activities.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT	PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
<p><b>Dance</b> During our ‘Rivers’ dance unit, children will learn how to improvise freely, translating ideas from a stimulus into movement. They will also create dance phrases that communicate ideas and share and create dance phrases with a partner or in a small group.</p> <p><b>Gymnastics</b> We will explore key gymnastic shapes and incorporate these into a routine.</p> <p><b>Games</b> In rugby, they will learn to evade and tag opponents, pass the ball accurately and receive the ball safely.</p> <p>In Tennis the children will practise their skills with co-ordination and control to hit the ball over a net and participate in a rally.</p> <p><b>Please ensure children are wearing their PE kits on Monday (outdoor games) and Wednesday (indoor PE).</b></p>	<p>We are looking at two more of the HeartSmart principles this term, starting with Too much selfie isn’t healthy.</p> <p>Too Much Selfie isn’t Healthy is about working well with others, about being a good listener and understanding that life is more about we than me. By contributing to the lives of others we find fulfilment for ourselves and learn that Too Much Selfie isn’t Healthy!</p> <p>We will also be looking at the principle: Don’t Hold onto What is Wrong. Over Spring 2, we want children to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important forgiveness is to building strong and healthy relationships.</li> <li>• The importance of processing negative emotions healthily, not burying them, but letting them out.</li> </ul>
<b>CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Art</b></p> <p>This term, children will explore how shape and colour can be used to create moods, focussing on the artist Jon Cooper. Children will use mixed media to create their own atmospheric art. They will also learn to comment on similarities and differences between their own and others' work in order to adapt and change their designs.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Music</b></p> <p>In Spring 1, we will be listening to Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saens. We will then learn to sing Animal Fair in rounds and will compose instrument accompaniments. After this, in Spring 2, we will be listening to the music of folk band Whapweasel, and will be learning about the songs ‘Cockles and Mussels’ and ‘Mairi’s Wedding’. We will also be learning some folk dances, and will be trying to play the spoons to ‘Any Old Iron’.</p> <p>Furthermore, the children will continue to work with Mrs Dyer to learn a musical instrument.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DT</b></p> <p>In these lessons, the children will taste-test and evaluate a range of soups before designing and making a healthy soup. In the cookery lessons, we will develop a range of basic kitchen skills including chopping, peeling and general food preparation.</p>	
<b>COLLECTIVE WORSHIP</b>	
<p>We will start the new year with a focus on the value of Justice (Spring 1) where we will be reflecting on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What strategies are in place to ensure that rules and procedures in the school are fair and just?</li> <li>• How does our school ensure that it is an inclusive community for all?</li> <li>• How do we help children to be aware of global justice issues?</li> </ul> <p>And then the value of Courage (Spring 2) where we will be reflecting on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we help members of our school community who are facing difficult times?</li> <li>• How do we encourage others to share their fears and worries?</li> <li>• How do we demonstrate our core values to everyone in our school community?</li> </ul> <p>Our Year 6 ambassadors will be leading whole school worship with support each half term too.</p> <p>We will continue to make explicit links with our core Christian values of Love, Hope and faith and with the British values wherever possible (which are democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs).</p>	

### **HOMEWORK**

Children should continue to read **daily**. The focus should be on fluent and accurate reading of text, with expression. Please ensure that their books are shared and discussed in depth with an adult. Their growing understanding of more complex texts means that they need an adult to question and support their understanding of what is happening in a text. Children should be stopping to summarise regularly as this helps to ensure they are understanding what they have read rather than just decoding the text.

As well as reading, children need to continue to learn their spellings and spelling rules. Children need to know how to confidently spell and use their words in order to apply them in their writing, and not just for their spelling test on a Friday. Children should still be practising their handwriting if they are aware it is one of their personal targets.

Finally, please can we remind you that children should be regularly practising their times tables so they are fluent in both the multiplication and division facts. We expect children to be logging on to Times Tables Rock Stars in their own time, at least twice a week. At the moment, this valuable resource is being used very little outside of school. Thank you to the small handful of children who are making great use of this and logging on 4 or 5 times a week and it is clear to see their fluency in class.

Thank you so much for your support.

**Year 3 Team**