



18 September 2020

Dear Year 3 Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Hawley Primary School and welcome to Year 3! I hope that you and your families have had a fantastic summer and that you are all ready for a new school year. In our class this year we are lucky to be joined by teaching assistant Yvonne and learning support assistants Jade and Hermine. Although it has been a different transition to normal years, your children have begun the year with a fantastic attitude and started their work very well.

The topic we are studying this term is '**Forces of Nature.**' Through our early discussions, the children have already formed a wide range of questions and have shown that they already know some very interesting facts on the topic. Whenever possible this topic will be covered through cross-curricular teaching and learning, linking subjects together to ensure a wholesome experience for the children.

In **English** we will be developing our writing skills through writing stories, newspaper articles, recounts and poems based on the texts '*Mouse, Bird, Snake*' and '*The Flood*' by Alfaro F Villa, and real life recounts and events in the news. We will also be working on improving our grammar, punctuation, handwriting and spelling.

In **Maths** we will be working on our understanding of place value, calculating addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions as numbers and statistics (collecting and representing data from a weather station). We will also be developing our problem-solving skills by completing investigations and challenges.

In **Science** we will be learning about rocks, fossils, volcanoes, soils and weather. We will work on our scientific skills by completing exciting investigations, recognising the importance of fair tests and how to collect data.

In **Geography** we will learn about human and physical geographical features, focusing on the weather in the U.K but also comparing it to other nations. We will become geographers, carrying out enquiries in our school grounds and local area. We will learn about extreme weather and about earthquakes and volcanoes. Following on from our science we will discuss the water cycle and how it can link to extreme weather and our local area. Finally, we are going to find out about the environment and what we can do to help – focussing on plastics and water.

In **History** we will learn about some natural disasters that have happened in the past and how they affected people. We will also learn about the history of our earth through rocks, fossils and soil and read the story of Mary Anning, discussing both her contributions to science and how it felt to be a female scientist/palaeontologist in the 1800's.

In **Art and DT** we will be designing and making our own instruments to measure the weather, designing and making a flood proof building and learning about Henry Moore's sculptures. In our sketch books we will be completing observational drawings of fossils and rocks.

In **Computing**, we will be using laptops and iPads to help us research our topic, continue our understanding of online safety, coding and presenting our work.

In **RE** we will be learning about Christianity and the symbolism of water. We will also be discussing all forms of religious celebrations that are occurring during the Autumn Term. This will have links to **PSHE** in which we will be working on respecting our differences. Throughout the term we will also be supporting the children when discussing the last 6 months and any topics that arise.

Year 3 will have **PE** sessions on **Monday** mornings and **Wednesday** afternoons. Please ensure that your child **comes to school** in appropriate PE clothes. Due to COVID regulations, we will not be changing for our lessons and so it is important they are prepared.

During **Guided Reading**, pupils will read to an adult at least once a week. In these sessions, the children will work with either Yvonne or me, complete comprehension tasks, or quiet independent reading. Please continue to read at home as much as possible with your child as it is extremely beneficial to them in the class.

Home Learning

Every **Friday** your child will be given homework. This allows your child to share with you some of his/her school learning. Please participate in their homework but allow the child to take the lead; assisting only if they need explanation /clarification or need something read to them. The tasks will be set on Google Classroom and have to be submitted via the website.

Homework is due to be completed by the following Thursday.

Included in this homework will be five spellings taken from the statutory Year 1 and 2/Year 3 and 4 words to learn. We will have a test on these words every Friday.

Every morning, when the children arrive in class they complete a times tables challenge. Each week the times table changes with a test completed on the Friday. Please see the homework set on Friday to find which particular tables we are working on.

Punctuality

Please remember that children should be in the classroom at our allocated time of 9.05-15 am each morning through the school playground entrance. If they are not in the room by this time they will be recorded as late. The end of the day for Year 3 is at 3.30 pm at the same collection point.

Visits and workshops this term:

Natural History Museum – earthquakes and volcanoes	To be confirmed
City Learning Centre	To be confirmed
Sir John Soane’s Museum – rocks and soils	To be confirmed

Your support for your children during this transition period has been very much appreciated; they have all arrived with a fantastic attitude and are driven to learn and return to normality. Please continue to remind your children at home the importance of hygiene and washing of their hands, and that if they ever have any questions then all adults in the school will be willing to help.

Kind regards

Mark Benjamin
Class teacher

