



23rd April 2021

Dear Year 3 Parents/Carers,

Welcome back for our final term of Year 3! It is amazing to believe this Year has passed by so quickly, however your children have managed to show their resilience and discipline to continue to work hard throughout changes to their education fantastically.

The topic we are studying this term is 'Here and There - What's in a South American rainforest and what's on our doorstep?' The class has already shown a keen interest in the many differences we have between the two continents, with a particular enjoyment when discussing the animals, and I know they will challenge themselves to truly understand the many similarities we have together too. 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 writing persuasive letters, narratives, setting descriptions, poetry and information tests on a range of South American topics. These will be based on Jennifer Uman/Valerio Vidal's *Jemmy Button* and Lynne Cherry's *The Great Kapok Tree*, as well as other sources.

In **Maths** we will be continuing our hard work on fractions from last term and also will cover our four calculations again. We are looking forward to starting measurement: mass and capacity, geometry: properties of shape and working very hard on understanding time. We will also be developing our problem solving skills by completing investigations and challenges.

In **Science**, we will be learning about life and growth of plants and the importance of the skeleton to humans and animals. We will work on our scientific skills by completing exciting investigations, recognising the importance of fair tests and how to collect data.

Our **Geography** lessons will be integral to our understanding of our topic. We will be completing a geographical study to look for the similarities and differences between London and a region in South America. We are going to complete a study of two key rivers; the Amazon and the Thames, use maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping to locate and describe each region and we will become geographers, carrying out enquiries in our school grounds and local area. Finally, we are going to continue to learn about the environment and what we can do to help – focussing on deforestation.

In **Art and DT** we will be understanding how to make our own natural dyes, understand and apply the principles of a healthy and varied diet by working with food, use sketch books to record and observe animals/plant life and study Henri Rousseau's 'Tiger in a Tropical Storm, providing an opportunity to compare rainforests around the world.

In **Computing** we will be using laptops and iPads to help us research our topic, improve our understanding of online safety and developing our coding skills.

In **RE** we will be learning and recognising how festivals are celebrated across different religions. This will have links to **PSHE** in which we will be working on respecting our differences.

Year 3 will have **PE** sessions on **Monday** mornings and **Wednesday** afternoons. Please ensure that your child arrives in their PE kit as, due to Covid regulations, we are not changing for lessons in class.

Through **Guided Reading**, pupils will read to an adult at least once a week. In these sessions, the children will work with myself, work with Yvonne, complete comprehension tasks on the reading or complete quiet independent reading, changing every day. Pupils will be able to borrow up to one book from the school (Thursday) and it is very important that they continue to read at home as much as possible. Please return the books back to school once finished. When reading with your child please ask questions about the text to develop comprehension skills.

Home Learning

Every **Friday** your child will be given homework, accessible via Google Classroom. 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 explaining/clarification or need something reading.

Homework is due online by the following Thursday.

Included in this homework will be five spellings taken from the statutory Year 3 and 4 words to learn or our spelling lessons. We will be having a test every Friday on these words.

Every morning the class arrives to complete a particular times table challenge. Each week the times table changes with a test completed on Friday. Please see Google classroom to find out what times table the class is working on.

Punctuality

Please remember that children should be entering the school gates at 9.05 am each morning.

Visits and workshops this term:

I am thrilled to say many school trips will be beginning again this term. We have plans to attend the London Zoo, the CLC and the River Thames/canal walks with dates to be announced soon.

Kind regards

Mark Benjamin