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September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Year 3. We hope you and your family have enjoyed the summer break and that your child is excited about moving up into Year 3. This year the team will be Jane Cox, Emma Partington and Tom Phillips. We would like to invite you to our curriculum meeting which will take place on Tuesday 12th September 2017 from 14:30 to 15:00 in the ICT room. This will be led by Jane Cox and will be a first opportunity for parents to ask questions about the Year 3 curriculum, how we organise the work, our class routines and to respond to any queries you may have. This letter provides similar information and we have also attached an indicative timetable and curriculum map for Term 1 which runs from September to December.

Drop-off/Pick-up & Registers

- The children arrive and depart via our own classroom door, which opens onto the main playground.
- School opens at 08:45 and we take the register promptly at 08:55. It is really important that your child arrives on time each day; late arrivals disrupt the morning routine and are distracting for others, plus we find arriving late often upsets the child too.
- The outside classroom door closes at 08:55, so if you are late for any reason, please ensure that you come into school with your child via the main entrance and report to the office where you can sign your child in as late and order a school lunch if appropriate. Your child will then be directed to class.
- At the end of the day, we send children to after-school clubs using the internal classroom exit, or out into the KS2 playground to be met by a parent or carer. Children in Year 3 are not allowed to leave unescorted. Prompt pick up at 15:00 is appreciated, as the teachers have meetings to go to or preparations for the next day to get on with. Please let the office know in advance if you have been delayed and will be late collecting your child. The children know to remain inside the classroom until a parent or carer arrives in the playground to collect them.

Absence

- Please let us know in advance if your child has a medical or similar appointment and will need to be taken out of school or to arrive late.
- If your child is ill, please ring, email or text the office as soon as possible on each day of absence. Please also complete the absence form on the first day that your child returns to school. We cannot accept explanations for absence from your child.
- Permission for any other absence during school time needs to be sought in advance by completing a request form available from the office. Permission for such absence is at the discretion of Mrs Hawkins and can never be authorised by the Year 3 class teachers.

Homework

- Responsibility for homework alternates half termly between the class teachers. Mrs Cox is setting homework in Terms 1a, 2a and 3a whilst Mrs Partington will set homework in Terms 1b, 2b and 3b.
- When Mrs Cox is setting homework this work will be set on a Wednesday to be handed in no later than the following Monday. Mrs Partington will set homework on a Friday to be handed in no later than the

following Thursday. About once every half-term, a longer open-ended project will be set. This work is not done in the homework book, as we like to display the lovely work the children do. The children are therefore encouraged to hand in best quality work, ready to go up on the walls, something we find they are very proud of and enjoy sharing with the rest of the class.

- In addition, the children will also have spellings set each week which they should learn by heart. Spellings set will be tested weekly by Mrs Partington. These words will be from the Year 3 national curriculum list plus any high frequency words that the children have not yet mastered. They will be practised in class but it is essential that the children secure the spellings at home.

PE

- Over the year the children will have the opportunity to try outdoor winter games (such as hockey, football and netball), gymnastics, badminton, multi-skill games, athletics and summer games (such as rounders and cricket). PE lessons are on Tuesday afternoons with our PE specialist, Kate Green and Wednesday mornings with Mrs Cox. From time to time we may also have a short PE lesson on Monday afternoons, so please make sure your child's full PE kit is in school at the beginning of each week. Please make sure your child has named training shoes, shorts and a T-shirt for PE lessons. We will be using our outdoor spaces as much as possible, so your child may also like to have a sweatshirt and leggings or track suit bottoms to wear on cooler days. We find proper training shoes which have a tread on the bottom better for sport than flat-soled plimsolls.

Reading

- Please read with your child as often as possible. Ideally this will be for 10 to 15 minutes daily, and may include you hearing your child read, you reading to/with your child, a discussion of what has been read, or predicting what will come next, how characters will develop or how a book will end. The children are welcome to read books from home or from our small class library. The children will also have the opportunity to visit the school library weekly, and to choose a book which may be taken home and returned the following week. Some children may be given specific books to read at home but for the most part we consider Year 3 children 'free readers'.

Class support

- Jane Cox takes the class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday until 13:30 and Emma Partington teaches on Thursday and Friday. Tom Phillips is our class TA, and Sarah Fletcher takes the class with Tom from 13:30 on Wednesdays, teaching Art and Design Technology.
- Parent consultations will be coming up at the beginning of Term 1b, but in the meantime if you need to talk to us, please find us before registration for anything that needs to be shared immediately, or after school for a quick chat, or if necessary, make an appointment with either of us.

We are looking forward to getting to know your child and we hope to have lots of interesting and exciting experiences together.

Jane Cox, Emma Partington & Tom Phillips
September 2017