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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Wednesday 10th May 2017

Summer Term Newsletter Year 3

Dear Parents,

Here we are in another busy term of exciting learning in Year 3.

Topics include:

- Rainforests (and Conservation Issues),
- The "Jungle Book" story as an impetus for work in English and in Art lesson,
- Hinduism
- Science work involving "Plants", with particular focus on identifying different parts of plants and learning about what role different parts play,
- Play script writing using Kenneth Grahame's "The Wind in the Willows" as an impetus for this.
- The Miracles of Jesus (Christianity)
- "Relationships" and "Changing Me" our P.H.S.E topics
- a geographical/environmental study of rivers and river features, including a focus on the local River Wey,

We will also be involved in additional gardening and cooking activities. Any parents who would like to join us to lend their expertise in these areas would be gratefully appreciated.

Dates for your diaries for Year 3 class events:

Life Education Van Year 3 visit- Thursday 11th May

Year 3 Athletics Festival at D.M.S. - morning of Friday 12th May

Y3 Parents Session - Monday 22nd May (9.00am) - find out more about our Jigsaw scheme of work "Changing Me" in the 2nd half term, which relates to how our bodies change as we develop into adults.

Year 3 "Tests" - to be carried out in the two weeks after the half term holiday:

These tests are ones that we carry out between the statutory S.A.T.s that are carried out in years 2 and 6.

By doing these tests in English, Mathematics and Science we are able to continue to track progress between the more formal S.A.T.s.

The "Fiver Challenge" - throughout June

During the holiday and the first week back at school - plan ideas for the **"Young Enterprise Fiver Challenge"**.

"-a fun way of introducing financial literacy, resilience and teamwork to primary school pupils"
Children have one month to set up a mini business and create a product or service they can sell or deliver at a profit and engage with their local community.
(- More information to follow)

Monday 19th June - Friday 23rd June **S.T.E.M. Theme Week** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - additional focus on these areas of the curriculum)

St. Laurence Church, Upwey Wishing Well and Radipole Nature Reserve -

(2 class groups in a minibus + cars) - Monday 26th June and Friday 30th June.

You will be informed nearer the time which of these trips your child will be taking part in. We will organize this to avoid clashes with Music lessons on Monday, but if there is any other reason that your child needs to attend on a particular day +(Dentist appointment etc) please let me know.

"Healthy Living Week" (Monday 3rd July - Friday 7th July)

K.S.2 "Sports Morning" - Tuesday 4th July

Year 3 Swimming Gala - Thursday 6th July

Year 3 Class Assembly is on Friday 14th July, at 9.20 am.

Open Afternoon - Monday 17th July.

As you can see there are lots of things lined up for Year 3.

Other activities may well be added to this list; and there are other things too that involve the whole school.

All of these activities have been planned to enrich the curriculum and to give the children an exciting time at school.

Reading

We are grateful for your continuing support in the development of your child's reading. It is really important that you continue to demonstrate your enthusiasm to your child by hearing them read at home, and showing your interest by talking about books and other forms of text. We obviously see the development of reading as a very high priority in what we do at the school.

In Year 3 we continue to adopt various approaches towards developing reading skills:

Individual Reading

The children have their own individual books from the school's library. These are to be taken home and are the books that can make up the child's regular home reading. These should be kept in their book bags.

These books should be changed by the children when necessary and will now need to be scanned in and out of the electronic system. The children will have opportunities to change books during the school day (such as before register, at break time and at lunch time).

It would be helpful if you could continue to make occasional comments in the Reading Record Booklet.

Guided Group Reading

Your child will be reading with a group of children of a similar ability. This takes place on most days at school. Your child's group will work with an adult on some of these occasions. The selection of books and planning of these sessions will be done by me and the delivery of these sessions will be done by me and other members of the Year 3 Teaching Team.

Library Books

The children will have an opportunity to choose a non-fiction book from the Library. They can change or renew this on Wednesday. This is a free choice to reflect their personal interests. These books need to be checked in and out using the electronic library system.

Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (Jigsaw)

At the Prince of Wales School we all follow a structured programme aimed at delivering a sequence of lessons designed to promote emotional literacy and develop social skills. The focus for this half term is "Relationships". Next half-term, the topic is "Changing Me"

Our "caterpillar words" (courteous, caring, cooperative, confident, considerate, conscientious, communicative) remain a focal point for setting a happy ethos in the classroom. "Brother Elvis", the friendly class puppet, has now gone home with nearly everyone in Year 3. He will continue to have weekends away with a child who has demonstrated exemplary citizenship throughout the week!

Building Learning Powers

We are continuing to "Building Learning Power". This is a set of skills to help empower the children with the confidence and reliance to be able to tackle their learning more effectively.

Home Learning

I will be continuing to ask the children to do small amounts of "home learning" each week. The weekly "home learning" activity will be given out on Wednesdays (to coincide with any letters sent out to parents from the school office). This will take the form of a piece of writing, finding out about a particular topic or having a go at Mathematics activity. The "home learning" will be explained on a "Blog" that you can access through the school's website.

Spellings

Every Wednesday, we will be continuing to send the children home with "Spelling Lists". This will be a sheet of paper with 4 lists on it. The children will have a "test/quiz" on the words from the lists on the following Wednesday. The children should choose 2 lists that they feel they need to learn and should only be learning 2 lists from the selection of four. In other words, if they are learning the words on lists 3 and 4 then that is because they are confident that they can already manage the words on lists 1 and 2. Children appear to continue to enjoy this approach.

Snacks

We are keen that the children have a *healthy* snack at Break Time. Your child should put his/her snack in the "Snack Tray" when they arrive at school. Children have the chance to drink a glass of milk at break times.

Water

We are keen that the children should have access to water in the classroom as there is much evidence to support the idea that this helps them to learn. Please give your child a named water container. This can stay at school and they can top it up in the Servery when necessary. This is separate to the drink that you provide for their lunch.

Communication between School and Parents (Year 3)

Blogs - I will continue to write regular "blogs" on the school website. These will be brief details of what we have been up to in class, and comments about what things will be coming up soon. To view these go to the "Year 3 "section of the "Parents' Page" on the website.

Class Photo Gallery - Do make sure that you take a look at the Year 3 Class Photo Gallery. There are now lots of albums showing the things that we have been up to throughout the year.

Please feel that you can approach me or Mrs. Bernard (or Mrs. Thomas, with Y3 on Monday morning) to discuss any issues, worries, concerns that you may have when you drop off and pick up your child.

If you would like to arrange a more detailed or confidential chat with me (DM), then I would, of course, be very happy to make an appointment to do so.

Yours sincerely

Duncan MacBean
Class Teacher