

Dear parents and children,

Welcome back to school, and a very warm welcome to Year 3! We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break. We are really proud of how well the children are settling into life in the juniors, and we are thoroughly enjoying getting to know them.

As you are aware, Mrs Patterson teaches in Year 3 between Monday and Wednesday, and Mrs Sergeant teaches the class on Thursday and Friday. You are able to share any information or concerns with either of us, and we will work together and with the school team to answer questions and support you.

Our whole school theme this term is 'Light up the World', and where appropriate our learning will be linked to this theme. Our Curriculum Overview can be found on our class page on the school website. Below is some more detailed information about our teaching and learning during the autumn term.

Topic

Our topic work this term is based around knowledge of the local area. In geography, the children will be learning to read and use a range of maps, including Google Earth, atlases and globes, as well as Ordnance Survey maps using DigiMap. They will learn to link features on maps to photos and aerial views and look at significant changes in the local area. We would usually walk around the village to identify the human and physical features in our local environment; as we cannot do this as a class, your own conversations on the way to school or as you walk around the village and surrounding area will be of great benefit to the children. In history, we will build upon the children's learning from Year 2 with a focus on what we can find out about our school and local area from the past. We will develop the children's research skills using non-fiction information texts including online research. *If you have any photographs or information about the Grimsargh of yesteryear, we would love to share them with the class via Seesaw (more information below).*

English

Our first few English units will be strongly linked to our topic. The children are currently enjoying a unit based on the book, A Bear Called Paddington, throughout which we have been able to compare life in London with life in Grimsargh. We will go on to study folk tales, with a focus on The Lancashire Giant using Espresso. We will also learn about our local hero Sir Tom Finney; the children's research into Sir Tom will teach them a lot about the Preston of his youth, and their biographies will demonstrate how he lit up the world of football and became a local legend. We are hoping that the children will be able to carry out an interview via Zoom with someone who can tell them more about Sir Tom. The children will also take inspiration from Finney's 'The Splash' photo/water feature to produce their own drawing to sculpture piece in art with Mrs Coulston.

Maths

In maths, we are following the scheme of learning as set out and resourced by White Rose Maths, supported where necessary by the Collins Busy Ants books which the children are familiar with. We will focus on number throughout the autumn term and will begin each unit by revisiting learning from Year 2. Each unit will contain opportunities for challenge, problem solving, 'thinking outside the box' and discussion of why we need these skills for the real world. Throughout the year, we will be strengthening the children's times tables knowledge - firstly, by recapping the 2s, 5s and 10s from KS1, and from October half term we will introduce the 3s, 4s and 8s which most children will learn by the end of Year 3. By using Times Tables Rock Stars, our classroom times tables booklets and through regular tests, we hope to put children into the best position for the statutory multiplication tables check at the end of Year 4 (further information [here](#)).

RE

In RE, the children will begin the year by building upon their understanding of Harvest. They will learn that Harvest has been celebrated for thousands of years, and we will dig deeper into why we give thanks to God at Harvest time and why we 'tithe'. Our learning will come from the teachings of the Bible - including in the context of God's words to Noah after the flood and through the story of Ruth. The children will create fruit and veg collages in the style of Dali and Matisse for our church display. They will also demonstrate their understanding of how people of other faiths celebrate Harvest by constructing their own Jewish Sukkot shelters in D&T. We will then move onto learn about being called by God. The children will look at different people who are called to work for God. We will look at key stories from the Bible and discuss what these stories and the people teach us about God, before moving onto celebrating how God is with us at Christmas.

Science

Our science unit on light is standalone and will be creatively linked to our school theme. The children will learn about light (including sources of light), reflections and shadows. They will work scientifically to investigate reflective materials, which objects are opaque and how shadows change. During the second half-term, our unit on material properties will be linked to our English work on our class novel, *Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, and the poem, *The Coming of the Iron Man* by Brenda Williams.

Computing

Our computing sessions will focus on independently turning on the computer, logging onto the school server, and logging into our regularly-used online programs (detailed in the homework section below). We will spend some time practising our typing and editing skills using Microsoft Word. The children will also use programs that accomplish specific goals and use sequences, including Scratch, and they will learn to debug programs. E-Safety is a feature of our computing curriculum throughout the year, and the children will be taught how to use technology responsibly and safely; this includes the dangers of online strangers and sharing personal information. *Please support us in this by using parental controls at home and encouraging your child to enjoy age-appropriate games online.*

PSHE

In class, we are making time for PSHE-related activities each day. These take the form of a daily catch-up when the children come into school, relaxation and mindfulness time using the Zen Den and social stories. This is in addition to our PSHE curriculum, which this term looks at our relationships and valuing difference. We are taking part in whole-school worship via Zoom, and our thrice-weekly class worship builds upon the Bible story that we have heard and how we can learn from it. Our school worship theme is Respect, and the children have been thinking really deeply about what 'respect' means and why it is important to show respect.

Music

In music, this term we will be following 2 units from our online musical school- Charanga. In our first half term we will be learning an R & B song for children called 'Let your spirit fly'. Due to the current school restrictions around singing we will be learning to sign a verse from the song. The unit presents an integrated approach to music where games, the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc) and playing instruments are all linked. In the second half of the term we will introduce the children to learning about the language of music through playing the glockenspiel. The learning is focused around exploring and developing playing skills through the glockenspiel.

French

Now that they are in KS2, the children will begin to learn French. We will be beginning with 'A new start' where we will be learning how to introduce ourselves and how to get to know someone new. We will also be learning some numbers and colours. In the second half of the term we will be linking our French to celebrations; where we will be learning days of the week and months of the year.

PE

In PE we will be focusing on ball skills/ ball games and gymnastics, where we will have our sports apprentice Mr Fletcher to lead some of our lessons. Year 3 children should come to school in their PE kit every Thursday and Friday. They can wear shorts or tracksuit bottoms, pumps or trainers, with their school jumper over their PE top.

Reading, spellings and homework

Every child should bring their reading book and reading record to school every day. All children should try to read for a short period each night, and we would appreciate it if you could sign their reading diary to tell us that they have done so. If you ask them a couple of questions each time they read, this will help them get into the habit of retrieving information from the text. All children will read with either Mrs Patterson or Mrs Sergeant during guided reading, using a previously unseen text. Mrs Hemmings will work with the children to provide extra opportunities for reading where required and further challenge comprehension skills. Reading will be monitored in school and a range of other opportunities for reading and reading for pleasure will be provided across the curriculum.

The weekly spelling test will take place every Monday. Spellings will be stuck into your child's reading diary for you to practise together at home. We will begin the year by learning words from the Year 2 and Year 3 word lists, and most children will move on to focus on the Year 3 word list when they are ready.

This term, homework will be handed out and returned via the Seesaw Class app. The homework will be set on a Wednesday and due back the following Monday. The homework will consist of English or grammar work, and maths or topic work. We

will sometimes use Purple Mash, Education City, Espresso, Mathletics or Times Tables Rock Stars. Please encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of their ability and upload it on time so that we may feedback to them.

If you would like to get in touch with either of us, messages can be written in your child's reading diary. You will be able to write messages related to homework via the Seesaw Class app, which we will both be able to see, or you can call the school office after school on a Tuesday for a chat with Mrs Patterson.

We hope the children enjoy their time in Year 3! We look forward to working with you this year.

Mrs Patterson & Mrs Sergeant