

# Year 3

## Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



### KEY DATES

End of term 3 –  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup>  
February

Start of term 4 –  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup>  
February

Parent-Teacher Conferences –  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
March

## Ancient History

During the first half-term, we shall continue our study of ancient Mesopotamia. We shall learn about how the Assyrians created the world's first permanent army, about how the Mesopotamians decorated their cities and palaces, and about why Mesopotamia is known by historians as the "cradle of civilisation".

In the second half-term, we shall begin to learn about ancient Egypt. We shall study and explore the significance of the River Nile, and we shall learn about the dynasties of pharaohs who ruled the kingdom. Important figures will include King Narmer, who united the lands of Upper and Lower Egypt, and Cleopatra, the civilisation's last pharaoh.

## Maths

In the spring term, the children will study:

### Multiplication and division

- Review multiplication and division facts for the 3,4 and 8 multiplication tables
- Review how to use arrays to represent multiplication and division and how to use grouping and sharing to solve division calculations
- Use the multiplication and division facts that children know to solve calculations including larger numbers using mental strategies and progressing to using more formal written methods
- Solve multiplication and division problems including scaling and correspondence problems

### Fractions

- Recognise, find and write unit and non-unit fractions of sets of objects including halves, quarters and thirds

Key vocabulary: inverse, regroup, exchange, groups of, lots of, share, equally, arrays, rows, columns, numerator, denominator, halves, quarters, thirds.

## British History

This term, Year 3 will study the Norman Conquest which saw a three-way tussle – Saxon, Viking and Norman, for the throne of England following the death of Edward the Confessor, King of England, in January 1066. The three claimants to the throne in England were William, Duke of Normandy, and Hardrada, the Viking King of Norway.

**Key Vocabulary:** successor, Saxons, Vikings, Norman, oath, shieldwall, mounted knight, Norman French, Royal court.

In term 4, Year 3 will study Henry II, who was King of England from 1154-1189, and Thomas Becket, Henry II's Lord Chancellor. When Thomas Becket became Archbishop of Canterbury, he shunned his former life and the friendship of the king. Instead of supporting the king, as Henry had expected, he took the side of the church. The two friends were now bitter adversaries.

**Key Vocabulary:** Angevin Empire, Church courts, benefit of clergy, Pope, Archbishop of Canterbury, martyr, saint, pilgrimage, penance.

## English & Grammar

In term 3, children will be reading Leon Garfield's retelling of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. *The Tempest* is believed to be one of Shakespeare's last plays. It tells the magical story of an Italian duke, Prospero, who is betrayed by his brother and exiled to an enchanted island with his daughter, Miranda. There, seeking revenge, he develops his skills of sorcery, using his magic to enslave two creatures (Ariel and Caliban) and shipwreck his betrayers. *The Tempest* is, above all, an entrancing story of sorcery and witchcraft, spirits and monsters, revenge and forgiveness.

In Term 4, children will be reading a collection of nature poetry by poets such as William Wordsworth and Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Through these poems, children will be encouraged to explore literary devices such as simile, metaphor and personification.

## Science

During the first half of the spring term, the children will continue to study biology. They will begin by learning about invertebrates and develop their ability to identify different types.

In the second half of term, the children will study physics, learning about forces and the effect of forces. Later, they will learn about mass, gravity and weight.

## Art

This term, the children will be learning about the ancient art form of Aboriginal dot paintings. They will be looking at a selection of Aboriginal paintings and will re-create their own by thinking about their surroundings and environment. They will learn the Aboriginals are the indigenous people of Australia and become familiar with the importance of storytelling in their images. The children will use a selection of tools to make the dots and use a carefully selected palette inspired by the colours of the land. They will use basic symbols such as concentric circles to create their image as well as learning about some of the symbols used frequently in Aboriginal art.

Vocabulary: Dreamtime, Aboriginal, Indigenous, Pointillism, Symbols, Environment.

In the second half of term, the children will be learning about the Alexander mosaic. It is a Roman mosaic that was discovered in Pompeii and dates from approximately 100BC.

Children will learn about the mosaic process and use simple ways of creating their own, inspired by the fish mosaics often found in old roman houses. They will draw, then paint, their design onto a grid. They will cut out the squares (tesserae), and stick them in order onto card creating a mosaic effect.

Vocabulary: Aristocrats, Marine, Mosaic, Pompeii, Tesserae, Opus palladianum, Opus regulatum.

## Geography

The children will begin the spring term by learning about climate and weather and how it differs around the world. Following this, the children will focus on the Earth's crust, volcanoes, and settlement. Pupils will discuss both physical and human geography related to each of the countries of the UK.

## Latin

Year 3 will continue to expand their knowledge of Latin by learning their first Latin nouns of the first and second declensions. They will use these to translate simple sentences containing a subject and a verb, both from Latin into English and from English into Latin. They will then consolidate their understanding of conjunctions, and use them to translate more complex multi-clause sentences.

## PSHE

Year 3 will begin the term by learning about the lives of individuals who have made a significant contribution to their own communities or even to our global community. As they do this, they will discuss with their classes the character traits on which these figures relied. They will then go on to discuss the importance of showing respect and courtesy to those around them. They will come up, as a class, with practical ways in which they can be courteous both in school and outside school, in a range of contexts from the dining hall to the local community.

## Religious Education

We begin the term by continuing our study of Judaism, learning in particular about Shabbat and about Jewish beliefs about the Messiah. We then move on to study Christianity. Drawing on our knowledge of the Bible from the autumn term, we explore what Christians believe about God, and discover how Christians vary in their beliefs and practices.

## Music

This term, we will continue to develop our understanding of pitch, pulse and rhythm with exercises and games while also learning to sing songs of ABRSM Grade 4 difficulty. We will begin putting all of our music theory knowledge together to start composing our own short rhythms and melodies. This term we will also be learning about some of the instruments of the orchestra and listening analytically to pieces of music written for orchestra.

## PE

This term, we will be introducing hockey. This will focus around hand-eye co-ordination, teamwork and communication. We will also be looking at the difference between attacking and defending.

