

Reading

We encourage all children to read for a short time every day at home. We welcome the positive comments you make in the reading record and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child. It really helps them and enables them to earn their miles for our Reading Challenge. One signature is worth 100 miles! We will continue to guide your child to make sure they are reading a range of poetry, fiction, non-fiction and media.

The children participate in three guided reading sessions a week as well as three independent reading sessions. As a result, we are not writing in your child's reading record as frequently as we were. However, we are still listening to them read aloud other texts in class. We are using the acronym **VIPERS** to help develop your child's comprehension skills by exploring a range of questions about what they read.

VIPERS stands for the following:

Vocabulary

Inference

Prediction

Explanation

Retrieval

Sequence or Summarise

Spellings

Children will be given their spellings and their maths homework every Monday, which should be returned every Friday. Spellings will be tested on Friday morning.

Times Tables

Your child will also bring home a piece of maths work each Monday which will be linked directly to helping them develop greater fluency with their times tables. Your child will also take part in a weekly tables challenge on a Friday which is called 'Tables through time.' They will work their way through the historical timeline as they progress with their tables. Please encourage your child to practise their tables at home. We always have **spare sheets** for each stage of the tables challenge, so please ask if you would like extras. Each week your child will bring home their completed tables challenge sheet, so you can see how they are progressing and support them with any that they may not be so confident with. Times Tables Rockstars is also a brilliant way for your child to improve their tables.

Termly Life Skill Fitness Challenge linked to our Jigsaw unit

On Monday 7th March, the children will bring home a fitness challenge that they have created in their Jigsaw lesson. Please support your child in ticking off the activities which they manage to achieve. We will review their challenges later in the term and celebrate the importance of being active.

We hope you will find this information useful. If you have any further questions or queries please contact the office on 01208 862496 or hello@stminver.org to arrange a phone appointment. Please don't forget to take a look at our class page on the school's website.

With very best wishes,
Miss Merson and Mrs Couch



Year 3 Class Booklet— Spring Term 2

Teachers: Miss Merson and
Mrs Couch

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Broad



Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back. We hope you all had a restful half term break. The children have made a brilliant start to the term. They have enjoyed celebrating World Book Day and St Piran's Day (a little early). We are looking forward to celebrating Science Week, which will start on 14th March and finish on 18th March and we cannot wait to start preparing for the Spring Concert.

The following information will give you an insight into the teaching and learning that will take place in Year 3 during this term, although it is likely that some things will change as we go along. Miss Merson will continue to teach the children on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Couch will teach the children on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Broad will support the children each morning.

English

Our English lessons will be inspired by a number of different texts this term. These directly link with our Science topic of Light. We will be exploring how to write a story from a different character's perspective after reading 'The King who Banned the Dark.' During our poetry unit we will be analysing Carol Anne Duffy's poem, 'Don't be scared' and Robert Louis Stevenson's poem, 'My Shadow.' The children will also create their own blackout poetry. We will be learning about how to write a persuasive information leaflet when we create leaflets to encourage people to not be afraid of the dark and to educate children about sun safety. We will also be exploring the characteristics of a fairy story, when we read the book 'Hortense and the Shadow' and create our own fairy tales. The children will continue to learn how to use paragraphs when we plan and write our stories and information leaflets.

Maths

The children will continue to consolidate their 2, 3, 4 and 8 times tables in class. They will learn how to measure lengths and calculate perimeters as well as how to work out equivalent lengths in metres, millimetres, and centimetres. They will also explore how to compare, add and subtract lengths. Later in the term, the children will develop their understanding of fractions. They will be exploring unit and non unit fractions, equivalent fractions as well as how to count in fractions. Every morning, the children start the day with morning maths questions which help them to re-visit their prior learning. The children will also take part in two weekly mental maths sessions which are taken from the 'Number Sense' maths scheme. In these sessions we will be looking at how to use near doubles, hidden doubles and how to adjust when working out calculations mentally.

PE

The children will have PE on Thursday and Friday morning with Mr Rickard. Please remember to send your child into school wearing their PE kit on these days. They will be developing their invasion skills through the games of basketball and touch rugby.

Science

This half term we will be learning about light. We will be developing our enquiry skills and carry out lots of fun investigations with light and different light sources. We will look at why we need light to see. We will also be learning about how light can reflect and form shadows. The children will work scientifically and collaboratively to investigate reflective materials and reflective surfaces. Furthermore they will learn that the sun's light can be dangerous and what we need to do to protect ourselves. We will find out how shadows change when the distance between the object and the light source changes. They will develop their scientific enquiry skills, make observations, predictions and conclusions.

RE

In RE we will begin our unit on Islam. We will be considering the question 'Why do festivals and worship matter to Muslims?' We will begin with an introduction to the topic and explore the five pillars of Islam and what they mean to the religion. We will look at how and why Muslims live their lives by these. We will then explore the different festivals and celebrations of the faith and the significance of the festivals to the followers of Islam.

DT

The children will be researching earthquake-resistant buildings. The children will then be designing, building and testing their own earthquake-resistant structures.

We would love any newspapers that you no longer need. If you are a builder or an architect, please do feel free to come in and share your expertise.

Computing

We will be looking at how to create, structure and use a branching database. We will also compare the different ways that information can be presented. We will be continuing to learn about online safety and how to keep ourselves safe online.

PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education)

In Jigsaw, the children will be exploring the topic 'Healthy Me.' We will be learning about how exercise affects our bodies and why our lungs and heart are so important. The children will look at things, people and places that they need to keep safe from. They will discuss and explore their attitude towards drugs. We will look at what strategies we can use to keep ourselves safe and name who we can go to if we feel unsafe. We will also be looking at how to keep ourselves safe at home and the children will learn that, like medicines, there are some household substances that are not safe, if they are used incorrectly. We will reflect on how complex and amazing our bodies are and how important it is to take care of them. Throughout our sessions the children are encouraged to share their views and feelings whilst being respectful of others. During this time the children will play different games which encourage the children to get along and follow class rules and our school ethos.

Geography

In geography, we will be studying earthquakes. We will explore the causes of earthquakes, investigate the five deadly features of an earthquake, research the Earth's biggest earthquakes and locate the Earth's biggest earthquakes on a map, using latitude and longitude.

Music

This half term the children will be learning to listen and appraise various different pieces of music. One of the main pieces that we will be listening to is Igor Stravinsky's 'The Firebird.' We are going to understand pulse and rhythm by understanding basic notations, reading