

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! We have ordered some lovely new books for our book corner and look forward to the children enjoying them. We will soon be moving away from book bands and so we have started to encourage all the children to select their own books from the class book corner. We will guide them in making sure they are reading a range of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, playscripts and media. Therefore, some of the books will still have a banded colour but that does not mean that your child is restricted to only selecting books in that band.

Every day, we expect the children to bring in their book bag and place their reading record book and their reading book in the red 'reading book box' in the cloakroom.

Reading Miles Challenge

In Year 3, we are challenging the children to read their way around the world in order to complete their reading miles passport. 5 reads at home is the equivalent of 500 miles. We will award the children with a certificate for the different journeys that they complete.

Spellings

Children will be given spellings and homework on Monday which should be returned by 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 and each week your child will bring home their completed tables challenge sheet, so you can see how they are progressing.

Expectations

Children throughout the school are encouraged at all times to be polite, diligent and hard working. We want the children to do the best they can and feel a sense of pride and achievement in everything they do. We encourage teamwork and a respect for all other members of 'Team St Minver'. We remind the children daily of our school motto, 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong'.

Termly Life Skill Shopping Challenge linked to our Maths

Can you help an adult create a weekly shopping list? Can you estimate how much you will spend? Can you work out what change you will receive, when you hand over your money? Try and do some mental calculations in the shop. For example, you can see how much a packet of potatoes, a bag of carrots and a bunch of broccoli would cost you. You can also explore whether the 'deals' are really deals or simply encouraging the shopper to spend more money.

If you would like, you can share your shopping experience with the class in the form of a presentation or a booklet. Alternatively, you can simply bring in the receipt and tell us all about your trip. 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 1

Teachers: Miss Merson and
Mrs Couch

Teaching Assistant: Mrs Broad



Dear Parents and carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you have all had a wonderful holiday. Thank you for helping us to make last term so special and for your support with creating our class Christmas dinner in a box. We had so much fun performing the play to you and cannot wait to get started with this term's learning.

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 teach the children on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Couch will teach the children on a Thursday and Friday, as well as teaching them French. Mrs Broad will support the children each morning.

English

Our English lessons will be inspired by our class book 'The Firework-maker's daughter.' We will be learning about the difference between formal and informal letters. We will also be developing our setting description by writing a diary entry, as if we were Lila (the book's protagonist) and travelling through the jungle. We will continue to learn how to use paragraphs when we write a journey story which involves Lila's pirate encounter. Later in the term, we will be writing our own shape poems in the shape of a volcano, inspired by Lila's climb of Mount Merapi and our geography topic. We will also be writing an explanation text about how a volcano erupts.

The children will be exploring how to extend their sentences by using the following subordinate conjunctions: **after, because, as, if, since, although, unless, until, while, when and where**. To help your child, you can have a go at frequently using these in your own conversations at home. You'll probably find that you already do use most of them already.

Maths

The children will continue to consolidate their 2, 3, 4 and 8 times tables in preparation for learning the formal written methods of short multiplication and short division. They will learn how to multiply a two digit number by a one digit number and divide a two digit number by a one digit number. They will also learn how to approach problems that involve scaling. Later in the term, the children will develop their understanding of money, by how to add money, subtract money and calculate change. Following on from this, the children will cover a unit on statistics where they will learn to draw and interpret pictograms, tally charts and bar charts. Every morning, the children start the day with morning maths questions which help them to revisit their prior learning. The children will also take part in two weekly mental maths sessions which are taken from the 'Number Sense' maths scheme.

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 game of hockey on Thursdays and be creating their own dance sequences on Fridays. They will look at how to create and perform a dance which has unison, canon and changes of speed within it. This will be linked to their topics on rocks and volcanoes.

DT

The children will be designing and making a healthy dish that has been inspired by Ram-bashini's Jungle Grill restaurant in *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*.

Science

This half term we will learn all about rocks, fossils and soils. We will be developing our enquiry skills and carry out lots of fun investigations with rocks and soils. The children will compare and group together different kinds of rocks on the basis of their appearance and simple physical properties. They will explore how fossils are formed and discover that soils are made from rocks and organic matter. If you are an expert in this area, or have a number of interesting rocks and fossils please do get in touch.

RE

In RE we will begin our unit by considering the question, 'How do festivals and worship matter to Jewish people?' We will be looking at the different traditions and festivals in the Jewish calendar, the importance and meanings of these festivals and how they are celebrated in the Jewish religion.

Art

In art we will be continuing to paint our monster's eye. The children will be learning how to mix colour, shades and tones with increasing confidence. They will also use a range of brushes to demonstrate increasing control over their mark making and experiment with different effects and textures. They will also be using a variety of materials to create a collage of a volcano.

Please send your child in with any large old shirts or T-shirts that they could use to protect their clothing. We would also love any old newspapers that you no longer need.

Computing

We will explore the concept of sequencing in programming through Scratch. The children will be introduced to a selection of motion, sound, and event blocks which they will use to create their own programs, featuring sequences. The final project is to make a representation of a piano. 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 how important it is to have dreams and goals. We will be learning about people who have overcome obstacles and achieved their dreams and goals. We will also be looking at how you can break down your goals into manageable steps that are achievable. The children will explore strategies that they can use in case they face any obstacles when they are trying to achieve their goals.

Geography

In geography this half term we will be studying Volcanoes, we will be learning about the structure of the earth, the structure of a volcano and how they are formed. We will be locating some of the world's most famous volcanoes and investigating what it is like to live close to a volcano and the effects of a volcanic eruption.

Music

This half term the children will be learning to listen and appraise various different pieces of music. We are going to understand pulse and rhythm by understanding basic notations, reading simple rhythms and eventually composing and performing pieces.