

# Year 3

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you all had a relaxing summer break and we look forward to seeing you at various school events during the coming year. We already have plans for some of these! Hopefully, you will find the information in this leaflet to be a useful reminder of our expectations for the year.

## **Homework**

Your child will have a homework book. Each week they will have a number of tasks to complete, which should be completed in their homework book or on the computer/tablet. We ask that they practise their spellings twice a week (using spellosaurus activities and spellodrome), complete two sessions on times table rockstars and read a minimum of three times a week. Sometimes there will also be a worksheet to complete which will be stuck into their homework book.

If you feel that your child has worked for 20 minutes solidly, but still hasn't completed a task, we would appreciate you signing off their piece of work, so that we know they have made a good attempt. You might also want to jot down any difficulties encountered.

The homework book will be checked weekly, so your child will have plenty of time to complete the work set - but please do not leave it all until the last minute!

## **Reading Record Book**

Please record the reading your child does at home (book title, pages read and any relevant comments) in your child's Home School Record book. They are allowed to change their books on any day. Please make sure they read a minimum of three times a week.

This is a two-way document, so feel free to write comments /concerns. Please make sure that your child knows to show us any comments that you have written! You can, of course, write a letter if it is more appropriate, or call in to see us at the end of the day.

## **Your child's work**

Hopefully you will have plenty of opportunities to see your child's work during the year. Other opportunities to see work are during our two parent consultations in autumn and spring and also at our Open Afternoon in the summer. You are always welcome to look at display work at the end of the day.

## **A Little Reminder About Uniform**

We are proud of our team image and instil in the children the importance of being smart. Please could you ensure that your child wears the correct uniform for school. It is also vital that all items of uniform are clearly named, so that any 'lost' items can be returned quickly.

## **What's happening this year?**

### **Reading**

During the year your child will read a variety of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and will investigate the features of each type. We encourage children to share their enthusiasm for reading and to become more discerning in their choices of reading materials. The children will be given the opportunity to share their reading experiences with others. This might include activities such as reading play scripts together, discussing books that they are currently reading or sharing a short story. You may also like to suggest books connected with our learning that they can bring in to share with others. Taking your child to Hitchin Library may also encourage your child to select books that will enhance their learning in school.

Please encourage your child to read widely throughout the year. It is very important that children of this age practise reading aloud to gain fluency and expression. When you have heard your child read at home, it is really helpful to discuss what your child has read to make sure that they have a good understanding of the text. Please record details of reading in the Reading Record book. Your support at home is essential in this area - we know from research that children who experience this support make better than average progress - regular readers can also earn merit points for their house! Mrs McConnell-Smith is happy to give advice and support to parents who are concerned about their child's reading.

### **Spelling**

In line with the 2014 curriculum and best practice, the teaching and learning of spelling at Whitehill focuses on rules, commonly misspelt words and developing an understanding of the roles of morphology (word meanings) and etymology (word roots). Although some words simply have to be learnt, teachers help pupils to understand relationships between meaning and spelling where these are relevant. Pupils are helped to spell words with prefixes and suffixes correctly through being taught some of the general principles for adding them.

Spelling lists (containing words related to the taught strategy and words from the 2014 National Curriculum statutory list) will run over two weeks. They might also include revision and topic words. Pupils will be tested on the words from this list and new words that follow the same rule. Pupils will have a Spellasaurus with suggested activities to complete to explore and embed strategies. They also have their own Spellodrome account which has spelling games on for them to complete. These games will be based around their spelling words they are practising.

### **Writing**

Throughout the year your child will be supported to write independently in a variety of styles. We will be teaching relevant aspects of grammar and will expect to see your child demonstrating their grammatical understanding in their written work. We will also be working on handwriting so that your child can produce a neat, legible piece of work.

### **Mathematics**

One of the most important things that your child can learn is their times tables, to a point where they can be automatically recalled, as this knowledge is applied and manipulated constantly in maths. Using times table rockstars will help them to consolidate their times table knowledge. It is also crucial that children know their number bonds and the four

mathematical operations well and are able to use basic written methods to solve problems. Any extra help at home to consolidate work is always greatly appreciated! This could be in the form of 'real life' situations where basic skills can be practised. We are also introducing a new online times table activity this year and your child will be given the details they need to access the site.

### **Foundation Subjects**

These will be covered through a series of topics during the year. Separate information will be sent giving an overview of the units being studied, together with suggestions of how you can support your child. All units involve independent research, collaborative work and presentational skills - valuable skills that your child will continue to use in years to come.

### **Games Afternoons**

Children are taught by professional coaches on Thursday afternoons to ensure the best teaching of a wide range of exciting activities. Many of our coaches run their own clubs outside school. Your child will also have the opportunity to continue their swimming lessons. You will have a letter outlining the costs nearer the time.

### **Support in the Classroom**

Support will be provided in the classroom by our own team of TAs and support staff (and hopefully willing parents and grandparents!).

### **Teachers**

Although we are your child's class teachers, the class will also have lessons from other teachers.

The children will have specialist French lessons from Mrs Skinner. All Year 3 children will have a weekly 'Basic Music Skills' session, which Miss McGurk will be teaching, for which they will require a recorder.

### **Trips and Visitors**

Trips and visits greatly enhance your child's learning and so we try to incorporate these throughout the curriculum. However, we do realise that trips can be expensive and so we aim to keep the cost as low as possible, whilst providing a high quality learning experience. We hope to go to Wymondley Wood and Shepreth Wildlife Park. You will be sent letters about any arrangements in due course.

### **Help!**

If anyone would like to offer any help with hearing children read, putting up displays, talking to the children about a particular topic being taught, computing support, art/craft or offering blocks of time when you are at a loose end, we would be more than grateful!

We look forward to working with you to support your child during this year. Please feel free to pop in at the end of the day to discuss any worries or concerns - We are usually around school somewhere! You can, of course, always make an appointment if you prefer. We look forward to seeing you during the year.

Miss McGurk and Mr Lord

Welcome to Year 3