



Stone

Church of England Combined School

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Building stepping stones to success



Design adapted from the children of Stone C of E School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 3! We hope that you all had a wonderful summer holiday and are ready for all the excitement that Year 3 has to offer. In this letter we hope to give you and your child an introduction to the next stage of their learning journey in Key Stage 2.

Hopefully, it will answer any questions you may have about the routines and learning activities that your child will be engaged in during the next academic year. However, please do come and ask us if there is anything that we have not included that you would like to know.

The Year 3 team

Mrs Readings and Mrs Hale will be the class teachers and Mrs Pettifer will also be in class all week working as a TA. Mrs Readings will be in class on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Hale will be teaching the class Wednesday to Friday.

Homework

Home learning will be given out weekly, on a Friday, and is due back in on the following Wednesday morning. Your child will be given a home learning book, in which all tasks will be written. Your child needs to take responsibility for his/her learning, developing a routine and making sure that home learning is not left to the last minute. Children should be able to complete their home learning independently. The English and Maths tasks should not take more than 20-30 minutes each.

Every week, your child will receive spelling words and multiplication tables to learn, as well as those two tasks above which will be related to their work in class. The children will have a multiplication test every Friday. There will be a spelling test every Wednesday. The spelling test will be done at the back of your child's home learning book, in order for you to monitor their progress and recap any words of which they are unsure. We suggest that at least 5 minutes of spelling practice and 5 minutes of timestable/ number bond practice every day will help with learning these.

Reading

Reading is an important part of your child's home learning and they should be reading for at least 5 minutes daily and at least 3 times a week to an adult. Your child should be encouraged to read for pleasure at home and make time for reading a variety of texts: stories, information texts, magazines, newspapers, poetry, recipes, instructions, lists, cartoons, brochures, etc. Please do make a note of all reading in your child's reading record. Children will remain on the Reading Scheme until they reach the **grey book band books**. After this, they will be considered 'Free readers' and will be expected to read a book of their own choice at home. We hope that this will encourage the children to love reading as much as we do!

As a class, we will visit our fantastic brand library every **Thursday afternoon**. In this time, the teachers and teaching assistants will be supporting the children in selecting appropriate books. Each week your child will bring home a library book that they can swap in weekly library sessions. Even if they have not finished their book, they should bring it back to be checked on the system. They can then of course keep it for the next week.

Guided reading will take place over the course of the week. The children will take part in a range of reading activities and will read with an adult once a week.

Mathematics

In Year 3, the children will be developing their number bond and times table skills so that they can call on them when adding and subtracting numbers mentally. It is important, as they learn their tables, that they develop an understanding of

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" Philippians 4:3



the link between multiplication and division, so when learning their tables they need to know that while $7 \times 3 = 21$ it is also the case that $21 \div 3 = 7$ and $21 \div 7 = 3$ etc.

The children can learn their tables any way that suits them. This could include:

- learning by rote i.e. saying the table over and over again, as a song;
- trying to identify patterns in the answers, then working out a general rule that will apply to that times table, e.g. all answers in the 5 times table end in a 5 or a 0, and the inverse for the operation of division, any number that ends in a 5 or a 0 can be divided by 5;
- using a 100 square to plot patterns;
- spotting doubles, e.g. $3 \times 8 = 24$, 6 is double 3, so $6 \times 8 = \text{double } 24 = 48$
- using fingers to do 'tricks' (e.g. 9 x table)
- answering quick fire questions in random order;
- they could tell you different ways of saying 7×5 (e.g. 7 times 5 equals 35, 7 multiplied by 5 equals 35, the product of 7 and 5 is 35)

Once your child has become more confident about the multiplication facts, they could be asked division facts and apply relevant calculations in real life situations. To further challenge your child, you could ask him/her questions like 'What is 6×40 or 6×400 ? (once they know $6 \times 4 = 24$). You could discuss how they worked out their answer when dealing with 10's, 100's, 1000's etc.

PE

On Mondays Mrs Readings will take PE lessons and on Thursdays Mrs Hale will take Outdoor Games lessons. Please ensure that the children have their PE kit at school on these days. Please avoid wearing any jewellery on these days.

French

French lessons are introduced in year 3. We teach French using a very hands on, have-a-go approach - lots of oral work and learning songs to help with learning the new vocabulary. It is tremendous fun and a great start to learning a new language.

Creative curriculum

Our topic this half term is 'Stone Age'. In History, the children will be researching Stone Age life, clothing, pets and homes. We have arranged a trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum on Thursday 21st September to consolidate our learning on this topic. You will have received a letter about this separately. This will be an exciting opportunity for the children to experience life first hand as a hunter gatherer in Stone age time. The class will also become archaeologist for part of the day and discover artifacts using real archaeological equipment and techniques. There will also be time for the children to explore some of the amazing buildings located on site including: a round house, Victorian school house and toll house.

We have attached our Curriculum forecast, showing more of what will be covered this half term. You will be able to find out further information about what we are covering in class each term on the school's website.

If you have any queries about anything we have mentioned in this letter or indeed anything else you would like to talk about, please feel free to see us in the playground after school.

Kind regards

Mrs Readings and Mrs Hale