

The Year Ahead – Year 3

Welcome to Year 3.

I hope that the start of the new school year has gone smoothly for you and your child. Year Three promises to be an exciting year where your child will have many varied opportunities to learn from a wide range of experiences, helping them to become independent, enthusiastic learners. Each term will have a new topic where the needs of the curriculum will be set in context to help give meaningful links across each subject. The first topic will be 'Dahlicious' (a topic based around the life and works of Roald Dahl,) followed in the Spring term by 'Secrets in the Sand' (all things Ancient Egyptian), concluding with 'Pathways through the Past', (a topic based around our local area throughout time)

In Year Three your child's main class teacher will be myself (Mrs Seward), supported by Miss Smith.

Classroom Expectations and Routines

Each child is expected to 'try his/her best' in every aspect of their school life, including class-work, behaviour and attitude to others. Good behaviour and a positive attitude towards learning provides the essential foundations for successful learning in the classroom.

You will already be aware that the children are in four houses, house points are awarded to children for special achievements, trying their best in their work and behaviour.

Individual or class merits are also awarded in our Friday Celebration Assembly.

The children are expected to arrive at school each morning no earlier than 8.45am and no later than 9.00am. For P.E. the children should have: a House coloured T-shirt and blue or black shorts (no football shirts please), joggers or tracksuit and trainers for outdoor games. PE kits should be kept in school throughout the week.

Books will come home daily; a separate book bag will be needed for the transportation of reading books, reading diaries and the occasional letters. This should also be in school every day. Please do not transport water bottles in this bag.

It is vital that all belongings be clearly labelled, as valuable learning time can be lost during a hunt for lost possessions.

The day ends at 3.10pm when the children can be collected from the playground.

Communication

As you will be aware communication should be through the office at the following email address:- office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk. Please be aware that I may not be able to reply immediately as I will be in class teaching, but will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

The best time to catch me to discuss non-urgent matters is immediately after school on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. If you wish to speak to me for any length of time, we can make an appointment.

Please remember to inform the school of any changes to your child's routine i.e. bus changes, SMARTIES etc. and let the school know of any absence as soon as you are able.

Please ensure that you report absences (planned or otherwise) to the office by telephone.

Please read 'The Star' every week to keep up-to-date with general school news and information specific to Year 3. Important information is generally shared by Parentmail so please make sure you are signed up and check this regularly.

The school website is full of useful information. We have a Year Three class page where we post information about the work we have been doing in class, along with photos of lessons, school projects and special events, along with a class timetable and news about our curriculum themes.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

October Tue 18th and Thurs 20th: Meeting between teacher and parent to discuss the settling in period.

March date to be confirmed: Meeting between teacher, parent and child to review progress and to set new targets.

Summer: End of year written reports.

Reading

Please read as much as you can at home, discussing the books you have read from school or your home libraries. Books and diaries should be brought home each evening and returned to school each day as books are changed regularly. There is a selection of books to choose from in the Year Three classroom, or a suitable book can come from home. On completing the reading of a book the children will select and complete an activity card related to it before changing their book. The children are expected to take responsibility to carry out this process.

The library offers a wide range of books that the children are encouraged to select from, books will be change fortnightly (a new book will only be issued when the current book has been returned). Please encourage your child to read every day, (4 x weekly as a minimum) sharing their books and discussing ideas in order to promote a widening interest in reading. Please complete the reading diary with title date and pages read. These will not be used as a home communication book. Reading will be monitored in school on a weekly basis. If you would like to supplement your child's reading remember that you can access a full range of FREE books for varying reading abilities at:-

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

Spelling

We follow a structured spelling programme in KS2 in which children are taught spelling patterns, conventions and phonic work. Spellings will be set via 'Spelling frame' (as used in Year Two) and monitored weekly. The same spellings set will be used in class as our spelling and hand writing lessons. Periodically the children will be tested on spellings covered. Spelling is closely tracked in independent written work.

Multiplication

We continue the learning of multiplication tables using the 'tackling tables' cards and quizzes. The children will learn their times tables each week for a quick weekly test. Once they have successfully learned each of the multiplication tables thoroughly (including division facts) and have instant recall of the table facts, in order and mixed up, and have scored 100 in their test they move on to the next stage of the 'tackling tables' program. The children will work at their own pace and are encouraged not to think of it as a competition against others. Regular practising at home makes a huge difference to the children's confidence and progress in their tables.

Languages

The language which we will focus on in Year Three will be French. We will concentrate on the basics such as greetings, colours, numbers and everyday classroom language. Children will also learn some geographical and historical; information about France, as well as some French customs and celebrations.

Homework

Regular reading, spelling and multiplication practice form the basis of the homework in Year Three. On occasions, the children maybe set a short activity relating to their class work. This maybe to consolidate learning, or be in preparation for a new activity. Please see The Star for these activities (they will have also been discussed in class).

School Trips/Visits

Autumn term; we will have a variety of themed days in school, there will be no costs for these.

Spring term; We will also have a number of themed activity days, but with no additional cost.

Summer term; Visit to Burghley House £30 (this is approximate) covering cost of entry and coach. Visit to Bewilderwood and sleep over £30 (this is approximate) covering cost of entry and coach, food for evening meal and breakfast. We will also have a number of themed activity days, with no additional cost.

Dress up days

I intend to have a number of dress up days throughout the year relating to our various topics. Dates for these will be set nearer the time, but I will do my best to give a few weeks notice. PLEASE do not feel that you need to buy expensive costumes and outfits, most can be made with things that you will already have at home. The aim of these days is for the children to have a memorable experience that they can then use to influence and inform their classwork.

Autumn; Roald Dahl, Ancient Mayan.

Spring; Ancient Egyptian or archaeologist.

Summer; Celt, Tudor, Evacuee

During the year, we will be able to have a number of coffee mornings where you will be welcome to come in to share your child's work whilst enjoying a cup of tea and cake.

Year Three promises to be exciting and enjoyable for us all. The secret of success lies in maintaining good lines of communication between teacher, parent and child, and to this end, I urge you to contact me, or the school, if any problems arise.

Here's to a wonderful year.

Catherine Seward

September 2022

PS we would love to encourage more voluntary help in school, the impact of this help on the children's learning cannot be underestimated. If you have any available time that you would like to spend in school supporting the children you would be most welcome. All skills and interests can be catered for; we would love to see you.

