

Class 3 Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 2021

Dear Parents

We hope that you all continue to stay safe and well. Mrs Merrett, Mrs Fox and I feel very privileged to be supporting your child again for this coming year.

Although we are all the same class as last year, with the changes in Government guidance for schools, we will be able to be much more of an integrated class, rather than keeping distinct year groups who come together for short periods. For the first time in months, we have mixed up the year 4 and 5 children in working groups so that they can really get to know each other better and help to increase their friendship groups. This will be the case for most subjects. The teaching space will be in the old class 4 (now called class 3) plus the group room. This is so that we can still spread out and have good ventilation. Both rooms will have a teaching and carpet area, and both will be used. We are calling these the blue carpet and the patterned carpet so that there is no hierarchy implied or inferred. For the majority of the time, mixed-year table groups will be used but in Maths, although the topic is similar, the children will move to maths places and be taught the objectives for their year by Mrs Merrett or me. Mrs Fox, as an HLTA, will support and extend the work under our direction and help the children. In Music and Spanish we will also split into year groups, with y5 joining y6 to extend their Spanish vocabulary.

This year 4/5 split is challenging, as it is not something that has been undertaken at Norton for quite a while, but it is exciting, too.

We will continue to practise good hygiene and will carry on with regular handwashing and sanitising to help keep everyone safe.

We are still tweaking the details on the timetable, which I will give to you and the children as soon as I can. The broad outline is similar to last year except that we will have PE on Wednesday, when the children should come in in PE kit. On Friday afternoons from next week, we will go swimming to the Aqua Centre in Crewkerne (Details in a separate letter). Swimming is an important life skill to learn but also provides opportunities to further develop social skills. On a Friday, please can the children bring their named swimwear and towel into school in a NAMED bag. Do not wear swim kit to school. It is too long to be wearing a one-piece swimsuit. We will change at the pool. Please provide a waterproof bag to put wet swim wear in.

This year we are not telling you that you cannot bring **backpacks** in to school but we respectfully ask you that their use is kept to an absolute minimum. This is purely because we are all in one cloakroom with limited space so wish to avoid clutter. On days when there is a lot to carry, a named backpack is very useful. I think this will be Friday when we will issue homework and reading books, as well as carry swimming kit.

HUGE apologies for the confusion over the message for PE kit being needed earlier this week coming from West Chinnock. Our IT system has been updated (!?!) and we now have a shared system with West Chinnock. It will eventually lead to a streamlined system but there are many, many blips at the moment that are making life extremely difficult. Please bear with us. We do do our best to keep you all informed and to give the children advance information but it does sometimes go wrong.

We will be changing reading books only on a Friday as this worked quite well last year. We will give the children enough books to last a week, keeping one in class for use in school. Please keep the reading books together with the Reading Record, making sure that you sign in it. We will update our school records from the diaries on a Friday only.

Every day the children will need to bring in a named bottle of water, their lunch and a coat. Please encourage your child to only use water to drink during the day – to keep teeth healthy. A separate drink for lunchtime is, of course, allowed.

Music

We are lucky to be able to continue our musical instrument tuition again. This year it will be a wind instrument (clarinets and recorders). We will all learn in school on a Tuesday afternoon, again with Mr Bertie, a Somerset Music specialist teacher. All lessons will be conducted safely, considering all aspects, including coronavirus risks. We will also have music composition and singing lessons with Mr Mitchell now that those restrictions have been lifted.

Remember to check your emails, the website or the list in the classrooms for weekly events so that you know what is happening and when, as well as any advance notice cancellations.

Reading

Remember to only send in Reading books, Reading Record and bookbags on a Friday. Most of the reading taught at school takes place through the shared or group reading in class so your child may not read their individual book to us very often, although we will monitor their progress. Please help your child to practise their reading at home as much as possible. If you feel they are ready to change level, please speak to one of us. Your help with this is much appreciated, especially in this strange time.

Times Tables

It is really important that your child is confident in their application of times tables, to enable them to achieve well in their maths work. Next summer, our year 4 children will be taking part in national testing of times tables. Please support us in encouraging their practise of times tables in many different ways. We will do some in school but also need you to help. Mathletics and TTRockstars are good with this. We will shortly reissue the login details for these.

Homework

Homework will once again be available on our Google Classrooms when it is set.

Reading Every week, we would like the children to undertake reading of their reading book at least 3 times. This can be in one of three ways: reading out loud to an adult; reading to themselves but discussing what they have read with an adult; reading only to themselves.

Ideally at least two of these types of reading should happen each week in the 3, or more reading sessions. *Each time the book is read I would like a sentence to be carefully written in the 'comments' section of the Reading Record about the part of the book that has just been completed.* It is suggested that by writing such sentences, deeper understanding of the text is attained. *Parents –please sign next to the sentences* so that you can also keep up with the story and the understanding and progress of your child. This signature will go towards rewarding your child with Monster Points for reading.

Spellings There will be a regular list of words coming home on a Thursday to learn as spellings or, when appropriate, to use in different sentences. There will be a test on a Thursday after play, which is when they will also get their new spellings.

There will also be **weekly homework**, which is handed out on a Friday and collected on Tuesday. This will usually be either a piece of Maths or English, which is usually a worksheet, connected with learning in class and helps to consolidate skills or prepare for new learning. It is intended that the children should be able to achieve independently, with minimal parental input. This type of homework should take no more than 30 minutes, although year 5 will start to get more by the end of the year to build them up to the year 6 expectations.

And...the work that we will be covering this term includes:

- English** We will be looking at different types of writing, using different books and texts, covering a variety of genres including: story writing, explanations poems, diary and recounts. Year 5 will also do more formal styles of writing and write for different audiences
- Maths** Place Value and number calculations -Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division; including reasoning and problem solving. Length, Area and Perimeter.
- Science** Rocks Fossils and Stone; Electricity –Circuits and conductors (y4) and changing circuits (y5)
- Humanities** Histroy -How has the role of the monarchy changed from Tudor times to today?
Geography –North America, USA and New England
- RE -** Stories of the Old Testament; The Christian theme of Agape
- Art** Use of colour
- DT** American Food
- Computing** Coding
- PE** Netball and Gymnastics.
- Spanish**
Y4 -Greetings and questions about ourselves; colours; months of the year and Christmas vocabulary.
Y5 will be having lessons with Y6 to further develop their vocabulary, and will be learning about shops, directions, and school vocabulary.

Yours

Linda Parkinson, Mandy Merrett, Buffy Fox